

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 28th Year

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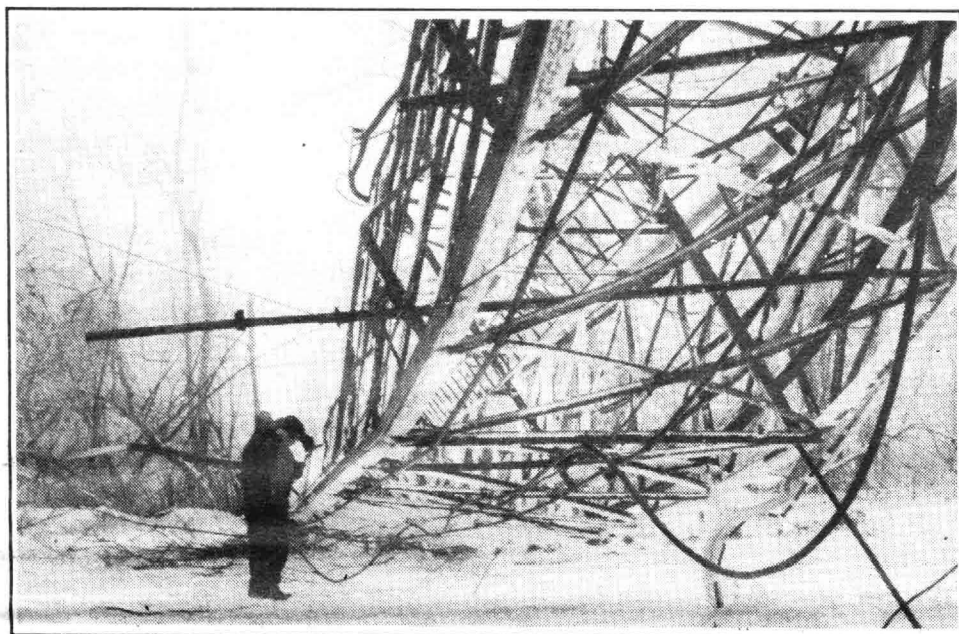
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Grounded Tower

Heavy icing brings down 652-foot tower; takes WOLX, Central Wisconsin Repeater Association 146.88 repeater off air

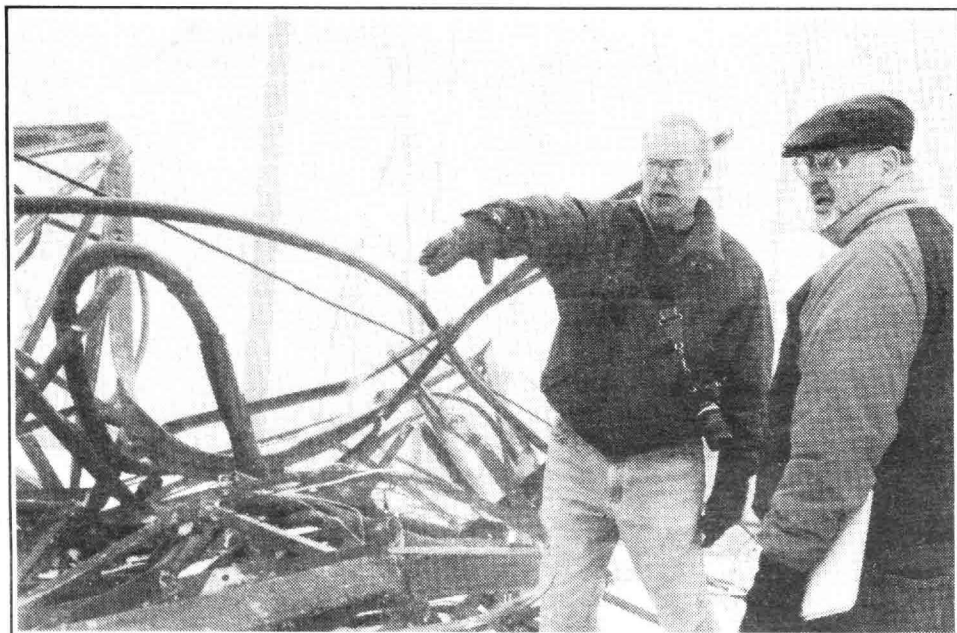


The tower which fell was not triangular, but four-sided, and measured at least five feet per side.

Local newspaper accounts reported that at about 6:30 p.m., as the resident family at the tower site of WOLX ("Oldies 94.9") prepared to observe New Years' Eve, the tower, on the Baraboo bluffs south range, came crashing down, taking about 15 seconds to complete its fall. Some portions fell to the west, and the rest fell east over the garage roof. Power lines were ripped out. No one was injured.

Among the antennae on the top part was that of the Baraboo 146.88 repeater, which had been at the 500-foot level. WOLX has been a good host for the repeater, which is used a great deal for not only conventional contacts, but for public service work as well (SkyWarn, in particular). There also were other services with antennas on the tower. WOLX returned to the air in just two days, using a temporary antenna.

According to Todd Hauser in Madison's *SBE Chapter 24 Newsletter*, the WOLX replacement tower will be the same height as the original, and is expected to be erected by the end of March.



Ed Toal, WI9L, and Gari Berliot, NG9V, inspected the wreckage and salvaged what they could of the 600+ foot length of 7/8" Heliac. The antenna itself may actually have survived both the sudden trip down and the sudden stop, although that has not been confirmed at the time of writing.

PHOTOS BY K9ZZ

John Schroeder, K9YXW, of CWRA, told BSSS that the total financial loss will exceed \$5,000. That figure includes the 7/8 Heliac, which was at the 500-foot level of the tower, and the 440-MHz antennas for the remote receivers and their

There's lots of fun for everyone in the..

1997 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY



Sunday, March 9, 1997

**1800 UTC March 9 to 0100 UTC March 10
(Noon until 7 p.m. CST Sunday, March 9)**

**OPEN TO RADIO AMATEURS OF ALL LICENSE CLASSES,
NOVICE THROUGH EXTRA, AND LOTS OF FUN FOR CASUAL
OPERATORS AND CONTESTERS ALIKE**

Full rules, details, and entry form on pages 7 and 8

**The Wisconsin QSO Party is sponsored annually by the West Allis
Radio Amateur Club, Inc.**

Hams on duty in western US flooding

Ham radio is pitching in to help in the wake of serious flooding in the Western US. In California, flooding 50 miles north of Sacramento resulted from a week of torrential rainfall. Tim Tribble, KD6-MDV, of the Sacramento, California, City Fire Reserve RACES Operations Center reports that his group was activated noon on Friday, December 27, and has been on 24-hour duty ever since. RACES operators have provided supplemental communication for the Fire Department, including relaying information about water levels at area dams.

The hams also have been providing support services, and have even delivered food to out-of-state mutual aid groups.

Tribble reports that up to 40 area

amateurs have been manning the command post. Other command posts are located at the Wilton Fire Department and at Station 59 in the Murietta/Sloughouse area of California.

Last Saturday, seven operators were dispatched to the city of Marysville to assist the Department of Fish and Game to assess needs in caring for livestock. Another 10 were sent to aid the Red Cross in damage assessment.

Ham radio has also been assisting in flood recovery efforts in the Northwest, including Oregon, Washington and Nevada. In Oregon, long-distance telephone service to the Ashland-Grants Pass vicinity

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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✕ Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

EDITED BY KENNETH A. EBNETER, K9EN, 822 WAUONA TRAIL, PORTAGE, WI 53901

Swapfests and Other Social Events

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1997. Midwinter Madness, at the National Sports Center in Blaine, MN. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1997. SEWFARS SWAPFEST, Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha, WI. Contact: SEWFARS, P.O. Box 102, Delafield, WI 53018. (414) 650-0724.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1997. WISCONSIN QSO PARTY sponsored by the West Allis ARC. Watch BSSS for details and entry information coming in the February issue.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1997. Tri-County ARC Hamfest at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Activity Center, Hwy. 18 West, Jefferson, WI. Contact: TCARC, W9MQB, 711 East St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. (414) 563-6502 evenings.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 1997. 25th Annual Madison Swapfest. Exhibition Hall located on the Dane County Fairgrounds in Madison, WI. 30,000 square feet of electronic equipment and components for hams, computer hobbyists and experimenters, Commercial dealers for both new and used equipment. For information contact: MARA, PO box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890. (608) 245-8890.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 25-26, 1997. Hamboree 19, Iowa State Convention, Marina Inn, South Sioux City, NE. Contact: NFON, Mike Nikolaus, 316 East 32nd St., South Sioux City, NE 68776. (402) 494-6074. email: menicko@avalon.net.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 2-3. AES Superfest 97. Amateur Electronic Supply, Milwaukee, WI. Many supplier displays. Contact: Ray Grenier, K9KHW, (414) 358-4088. help@aesham.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1997. 19 annual Cedarburg

Swapfest, sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club at the Circle-B Recreation Center, Highway 60 and County I (located 20 miles north of Milwaukee, west of Grafton. Admission \$4.00. both in advance and at the door. 4-foot tables are \$5.00. Food and refreshments available. Sellers set up 6:30 a.m. License exams start at 9:00 a.m. Talk-in on 146.37/97 and 146.52. For additional information, send an sase to ORC Swapfest Chairman, W58 N985 Essex Drive, Cedarburg WI 53012-1439. (414) 377-2784 or (414) 284-3271.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1996. Lakeshore Hamfest and Computer Swapfest, Manitowoc County Expo, Manitowoc, WI. Contact Glenn, AA9MT (414) 684-7096 or Red, N9GHE, (414) 684-9097 (nights).

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1997. South Milwaukee ARC Swapfest. American Legion Post 434, Oak Creek, WI. Contact (414) 762-3235.

See also the back page and flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1996. Eau Claire ARC Swapfest, Eau Claire County Fairgrounds, Eau Claire, WI. Contact PO Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Carol Ceraso (715) 723-9205 or Liz Searing (715) 834-1303.

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1996. Racine Hamfest, Racine, WI. Contact RMC, PO Box 3, Racine, WI 53401.

Let us know of your dates as soon as you know them. We will list them and perhaps help avoid conflicts with other events.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebneter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

Club Meetings



Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please see the

September 1996 meetings column for the latest complete listing. The following are additions or changes since that listing.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB

Last Thursday evening, Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa 53222. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. 12 months of the year.

GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION

Fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (414) 363-4439, garyk9gs@solaria.sol.net, K9GS@WASKEC.WI.USA.NOAM, Packet cluster: NB9C, for meeting location.

M & M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

General meeting held second Thursday each month at 7:00 p.m. in cafeteria of BAMCM basement, Tenth Ave., Menominee, MI. All amateurs and guests are welcome. Use the 147.000+ repeater. Our net is Sunday at 7:00 p.m. on the repeater. Our address is P.O. Box 1082, Marinette, WI 54143.

YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (BARABOO)

Days rotate: See YTRAC column for meeting date information. All meetings will be at the Baraboo Civic Center, Room 14, unless otherwise noted. Starting time for the monthly club meeting is 7:30 p.m.. The program starting time after the meeting is 8:00 p.m., with a one hour limit.

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebneter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560.

EDITOR: Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Telephone (608) 356-4031. InterNet e-mail: smokesigs@baraboo.com

TREASURER: Jim Decker, WB9UQT, P.O. Box 337, Baraboo, WI 53913-0337.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebneter, K9EN; Dave Knaus, WA9POV; Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$12.00
2 years	(24 issues - save \$2.00)	\$22.00
3 years	(36 issues - save \$4.00)	\$32.00

Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebneter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1.

The only exception is for participating clubs. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the

material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections should be sent to Ken Ebneter.

Editorial material, photographs, feature articles, display ads, and exchange papers should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebneter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebneter.

Swapfest ads should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Jim Decker.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

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Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

February 01, 1997	Racine, WI
February 01, 1997	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
February 01, 1997	St. Paul, MN
February 13, 1997	Apple Valley, MN
February 08, 1997	Oak Creek, WI
February 08, 1997	Madison, WI
February 08, 1997	Bloomington, MN
February 08, 1997	Blaine, MN
February 18, 1997	Eden Prairie, MN
February 19, 1997	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 15, 1997	Loves Park, IL
February 15, 1997	Cottage Grove, MN
February 22, 1997	Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
February 22, 1997	Tomahawk, WI
February 15, 1997	Milwaukee (Badger)
February 15, 1997	Redgranite, WI
March 01, 1997	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
March 01, 1997	Racine, WI
March 01, 1997	St. Paul, MN
March 08, 1997	Blaine, MN
March 08, 1997	Bloomington, MN
March 08, 1997	Madison, WI
March 08, 1997	Marshfield, WI
March 08, 1997	Oak Creek, WI
March 13, 1997	Apple Valley, MN
March 15, 1997	Redgranite, WI
March 16, 1997	Cottage Grove, MN
March 16, 1997	Loves Park, IL
March 18, 1997	Eden Prairie, MN
March 19, 1997	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
March 22, 1997	Tomahawk, WI
March 22, 1997	Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
March 22, 1997	Appleton, WI
April 05, 1997	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
April 05, 1997	Racine, WI
April 05, 1997	St. Paul, MN
April 10, 1997	Apple Valley, MN

April 12, 1997 Blaine, MN
 April 12, 1997 Bloomington, MN
 April 12, 1997 Eau Claire, WI
 April 12, 1997 Madison, WI
 April 12, 1997 Oak Creek, WI
 April 15, 1997 Eden Prairie, MN
 April 16, 1997 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 April 19, 1997 Cottage Grove, MN
 April 19, 1997 Loves Park, IL
 April 26, 1997 Tomahawk, WI
 April 26, 1997 Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
 May 03, 1997 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 May 03, 1997 Racine, WI
 May 03, 1997 St. Paul, MN
 May 08, 1997 Apple Valley, MN
 May 10, 1997 Blaine, MN
 May 10, 1997 Bloomington, MN
 May 10, 1997 Madison, WI
 May 10, 1997 Manitowoc, WI
 May 10, 1997 Oak Creek, WI
 May 17, 1997 Cottage Grove, MN
 May 17, 1997 Loves Park, IL
 May 20, 1997 Eden Prairie, MN
 May 21, 1997 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 May 31, 1997 Tomahawk, WI
 May 31, 1997 Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
 June 07, 1997 Appleton, WI
 June 07, 1997 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 June 07, 1997 Racine, WI
 June 07, 1997 St. Paul, MN
 June 12, 1997 Apple Valley, MN
 June 14, 1997 Blaine, MN
 June 14, 1997 Bloomington, MN
 June 14, 1997 Madison, WI
 June 14, 1997 Marshfield, WI
 June 14, 1997 Oak Creek, WI
 June 17, 1997 Eden Prairie, MN
 June 18, 1997 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 June 21, 1997 Cottage Grove, MN
 June 21, 1997 Loves Park, IL
 June 26, 1997 Tomahawk, WI
 June 26, 1997 Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
 September 20, 1997 Appleton, WI
 November 02, 1997 Kaukauna, WI
 January 24, 1998 Appleton, WI
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Racine, WI
 (except January, July & August)
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 Monthly, 1st Sat. St. Paul, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Oak Creek, WI
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Bloomington, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Wed. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN
 Monthly, Last Sat. Wauwatosa, WI (MRAC)
 (except December)
 Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
 (January thru October only)
 Quarterly Marshfield, WI
 (Second Saturday every third month.)
 Quarterly Eau Claire, WI
 (Second Saturday, Jan., Apr., & Oct.
 plus annual summer hamfest.)

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions.
 If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the
 Swapfest column on page 2.

The FCC now requires applicants to show their
 ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE to the VEC. A copy of your
 license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You
 will also be required to have a photo ID, or other
 acceptable identification.

GENERAL RULES

FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event
 there are changes and/or errors in the dates or
 information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC Form
 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before
 the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with
 sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the
 current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND
 CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office,
 the ARRL. Send a 32c/ SASE if you request one from
 the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained
 from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.05
 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their
 ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You
 must also have two good copies of your license or
 CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached
 to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for
 their records. You will also be required to have a
 photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of
 testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to
 General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC) OAK CREEK, WI

SECOND SATURDAY DATE: 1:00 p.m. at Wauwatosa
 Savings Bank, 6560 S. 27th St., Oak Creek, WI.

THIRD WEDNESDAY DATES: At 6:30 p.m. at Village
 at Manor Park, (was Methodist Manor) 3023 S 84th St.,
 (84th & Oklahoma) Milwaukee, WI.

LAST SATURDAY DATES: (except December): 9:00
 a.m. at 7500 W. State St., Wauwatosa S&L, lower
 level, Wauwatosa, WI.

For Additional Information Contact; Jack
 Krause, (414) 774-6999 or call (414) 466-HAMS
 (Answering Machine) or write Milwaukee Radio
 Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

Bring along your ORIGINAL license, CSCE and two
 (2) good quality photocopies, plus two forms of
 identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also
 required is \$5.00 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are
 welcome. To register in advance, use a post card:
 print the grade of license you are applying for, and
 your name, address, and telephone number. Send the
 card to MRAC/VEC, at the addresses shown above.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

Amateur exams: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Commercial exams: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Unless otherwise noted at WMVS-TV studios, MATC
 Downtown campus in the C building starting at 9:00
 a.m. for commercial exams and Amateur exams at 1:00
 p.m. the same day. The address is 1036 N. 8th Street,
 Milwaukee. Enter at the North West entrance of C
 Building. Walk-ins are welcome. To register in
 advance, send a post card with your name, test or
 tests you wish to take, date you wish to take, your
 call sign, address and telephone number to Badger
 Examiners, Gary J. Sharbuno, W19M, 5119 W. Willow
 Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53223. Telephone (414) 355-0237.

Also available FCC General Radio Telephone
 Commercial exams. Fees are \$5.90 for the Amateur
 Radio exams and \$35.00 for the commercial exams.

MADISON, WI

VE exams are held in Madison every second
 Saturday morning of the month at 8 a.m. They are held
 at the operations building of the Madison
 Metropolitan Sewerage District at 1610 Moorland Rd.
 To get there take the Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) to South
 Towne Drive. Go south 8/10 mile till South Towne
 Drive makes a bend and becomes Moorland Rd. and enter
 at gate.

You should bring a picture ID, your original
 licence and a copy of your licence. For exams beyond
 the novice tests, bring a check for \$5.90, made out
 to the ARRL/VEC. If the special 610 form with the
 medical exemption is required, contact me
 beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are
 necessary to take exams. For further questions,
 please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me at
 (608) 832-6631.

Mark Jenks, NZ9B

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July,
 and August.

Monthly exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at
 the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine.
 Walk-ins are permitted.

Talk in on 147.87/.27. Inquiries and
 registrations should be directed to Robert N.
 Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI.
 Telephone (414) 886-8551.

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month. Jan. thru Oct.
 Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC).
 Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but
 appointment would be appreciated. Registration at
 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For
 location or other information, inquire on 145:43
 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP,
 W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715)
 453-4633.

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC

MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST)

KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)

Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All
 test sessions in Appleton are held at James Madison
 Jr. High, 2020 S. Carpenter Street. Testing starting
 at 8 a.m. For Appleton information, contact George
 R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton,
 WI 54914. (414) 730-0967. For Manitowoc or Kaukauna
 information, contact Larry Siebers, KD9IA (414)
 759-1167.

STEVENS POINT, WI (ARRL/VE)

Held in room 107, of the UWSP Science Building,
 on the corner of Fourth and Reserve Streets in
 Stevens Point. Contact Joe Larson, N9JW evenings at
 (715) 344-1182.

PEWAUKEE, WI

Kettle Moraine Exam Team. Held at the Pewaukee
 WCTC Campus Science Building, Room S101. 9:00 a.m.

to Noon. Contact Al Johnson, AA7CS. (414) 568-0836.
 103357.3222@COMPUSERV.COM

OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur
 Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Exams
 will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro City
 Hall. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Walk-ins OK.
 Bring a good quality photocopy of your original
 license. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC,
 and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC
 and W5YI/VEC. For more information, please call Dick
 Lemme, KB9FA, at (414) 235-0987, e-mail
 lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson
 Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

EAU CLAIRE

The Eau Claire ARC will hold exam sessions on
 the second Saturday in the months of January, April,
 and October, as well as on the date of their annual
 hamfest during the summer. For further information
 contact: Carl F. Searing, W9NW, 1129 Mc Kinley Road,
 Eau Claire, WI 54703-2219. (715) 834-1303.

REDGRANITE, WI

The Radio Amateurs of Wisconsin (RAW) will be
 holding test sessions on March 15, 1997. Exams will
 be held at the Civic Center in Redgranite, 202 Pine
 River Road, one block from Highway 21. Registration
 at 8:45 a.m. with testing at 9:00 a.m. Bring two
 forms of identification, \$6.05 per test, two copies
 of all original documents, CSCE's, Licenses, etc.
 All are welcome for breakfast at the Curve Inn on
 Highway 21, preceding the exam session. For further
 information, contact: Mark Miller, N9WT, (414) 231-
 1662 or Terry Witt, AA9BA, (414) 685-5018.

MENOMONEE, WI

The Menomonee, WI VE team will conduct its 1997
 exams on Saturday, March 22 and Saturday, November
 1, 1997. At UW-Stout Communication Center, 820 South
 Broadway, Menomonee, WI. Walk-ins only, 9:00 a.m. to
 11:00 a.m. Contact: Jim Ley, NX9F, (715) 232-1397
 (W) or (715) 235-3996 (H).

WISCONSIN DELLS, WI

Wisconsin Dells City Hall, City Council
 Chambers. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact: K9WD,
 (608) 254-2895.

CEDARBURG, WI - ORC HAMFEST

EAU CLAIRE, WI - ECARC HAMFEST

GREEN BAY, WI - ARES HAMFEST

HAYWARD, WI - HAYWARD HAMFEST

KAUKAUNA, WI - SWAPFEST

MANITOWOC, WI, LAKESHORE HAMFEST

MARSHFIELD, WI - HAMFEST

OAK CREEK, WI - SMARC HAMFEST

RACINE, WI - RACINE HAMFEST

RHINELANDER, WI - NWARC SWAPFEST

ROCKFORD, IL - RARC HAMFEST

ROTHSCHILD, WI - WVRA HAMFEST

SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI - SMARC HAMFEST

STEVENS POINT, WI - CWRA SWAPFEST

WAUKESHA, WI - KMRA SWAPFEST

WAUKESHA, WI - MIDWINTER SWAPFEST

DUBUQUE, IA - HAMFEST

Watch the Swapfest column for additional
 information and contact persons.

DUBUQUE, IA - ARRL/VEC

Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, NOKAX,
 2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-
 9149.

LOVES PARK, IL

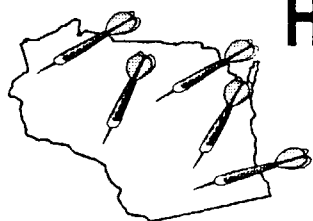
Third Saturday of every month. Northern
 Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC). Held at
 North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second
 St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Contact: Dennis G.
 Eksten, W9SS, (815) 877-6768.

MINNESOTA INFORMATION:

Space requirements do not always allow us to
 include the Minnesota test site information every
 month. Please see last months BSSS for Minnesota
 test site information.

The above information has been furnished by the
 various VEs. However, it is suggested that you
 confirm time, date and location BEFORE you make the
 trip to the test site. Occasionally, a test may be
 canceled and/or dates and locations changed. A Phone
 call could save you some grief and a wasted trip.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is
 available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner
 Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please
 send us your schedules of dates, times, and
 locations that you will be conducting examinations
 and we will include the information here. Be sure to
 include contact address and any other necessary
 requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at
 the address shown on page 2.



HERE and THERE

Listing stolen gear

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS, offers a free service to help hams whose gear has been lost or stolen. Check out his lost or stolen ham gear listing on his Internet home page at <http://www.dancris.com/~tracker/tracker.html>.

The ARRL Letter, 12/20/96

DARA scholarships

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting applications for its \$2000 scholarships. Eight scholarships will be awarded. Initial applicants must be licensed Amateur Radio operators and high-school seniors graduating in 1997. To obtain an application, send a request with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: DARA Scholarships, 45 Cinnamon Ct., Springboro, OH 45066-1000.

--Stan Kück, NY8F

The ARRL Letter, 12/20/96

STSPLUS Ver 9650 available

Dave Ransom has just released STSPLUS Ver 9650, shuttle and satellite-tracking software. The latest edition is primarily a features update that adds "night vision" capability where the screen is red for use on laptops outdoors (something teachers and Boy Scout troops have requested!), and a new Location Map Mode which allows

the user to specify the map center coordinates for the orthographic maps and "move around" and look at the maps, which some teachers have requested as a geography teaching tool. Version 9650 also fixes some bugs. The new version is available via anonymous FTP at

<ftp://ftp.mindspring.com/users/dransom>.

The new files for STSPLUS are in the /stsplus subdirectory. Direct comments, suggestions, and bug reports to Dave Ransom at rans7500@spacelink.msfc.nasa.gov.

The ARRL Letter, 12/20/96

QSO with Blaha "The funnest" for Texas ham

Jerry Buxton, WB0HUS, ran into John Blaha, KC5TZQ, the other day while driving to work. While monitoring the Mir downlink frequency, he got lucky when Blaha came on the air calling CQ. "I picked up the microphone and answered, and he called me back!" said Buxton, who was clearly thrilled by the experience. "This is the greatest! My first Mir contact!"

Buxton said Blaha had a "good, clear strong signal" into the Fort Worth, Texas, area. "I asked him how his morning was up there. He said they were very busy with their experiments."

Buxton said working Mir from his car was "truly one of the funnest parts of ham radio to me." He said he can't wait until the next SAREX shuttle flight "to see if I can have any luck then." His mobile rig is a Yaesu FT-5200 running 50 W into a 5/8-wave mag-mounted antenna on the roof of his car.

The ARRL Letter, 1/10/96

Another vanity delay?

Callers to the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office are being told that it might be early March before the FCC resumes processing vanity call sign applications

-- including all of those received at Gettysburg since the end of November. An FCC spokeswoman this week cited unspecified "computer-related" problems for the potential delay, and said the FCC would release additional details probably next week. "We've been getting a lot of calls," she said.

No vanity applications have been processed since December 19, 1996. While working to resolve the latest problems, Gettysburg personnel say will continue to whittle down the stack of some 600 vanity applications that required special handling from the December 19 vanity call sign run. The FCC spokeswoman said that most of the applications in that "work in process" or WIPS stack involve situations where the FCC was unable to grant any of the applicant's call sign requests. However, additional call sign grants have trickled out of Gettysburg as the WIPS applications have been dealt with.

The FCC also is in the midst of processing several hundred refunds for earlier unsuccessful vanity filers.

The FCC has not yet announced a date for the opening of Gate 3.

The ARRL Letter, 1/17/97

Foundation for Amateur Radio announces 1997-1998 scholarships

Two Wisconsin clubs among donors

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., will be administering sixty scholarships for the coming academic year, ranging from \$500 to \$2500 each. Unless otherwise indicated, all licensed Amateurs meeting the specific requirements may compete for the awards if they are now enrolled or have been accepted for enrollment in an accredited university, college, or technical school to pursue a full-time course of studies.

The scholarships funded by Wisconsin clubs are listed below. However, prospective applicants are encouraged to apply for others for which they may be eligible. Send for the information as directed.

West Allis Amateur Radio Club

The three (3) WARAC Memorial Scholarships are sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club of Milwaukee. The awards are \$1000 each. Applicants must hold an Amateur Radio license, be residents of the state of Wisconsin, and plan to attend a school in Wisconsin, pursuing at least an Associate degree. Those seeking graduate degrees are also eligible.

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

The four (4) SMARC Scholarships pay \$500 each. Applicants must hold an Amateur Radio license and intend to seek an Associate or baccalaureate degree in Electrical Engineering or technology from a college or university in the U.S. They may reside in Wisconsin, Illinois, or Indiana, with preference given to Wisconsin residents.

For complete information and an application form, write FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740.

Foundation for Amateur Radio/W3ABC



Tri-County Amateur Radio Club Presents: HAMFEST 1997 to be held on Sunday, March 16 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds Activity Center Hwy. 18 West, Jefferson, WI from 8:00 A.M. until 2:00 p.m.

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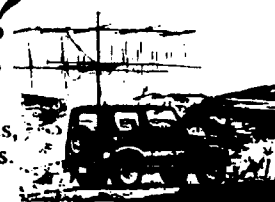
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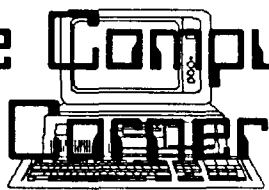
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No. 39: HOW TO OPEN AND SHUT THE WINDOWS IN 95

No one suggested this topic, but it needs to be available to you. If you don't have Windows 95 yet, save this article for when you do (and you probably will at some point).

Windows 95 is a terrific program, with lots of bells and whistles, and it is relatively trouble-free. As Sandy Wirth (W9BTN) observes, Windows 95 has finally reached the ease in use achieved long ago in Mac computers. There is no doubt that Windows 95 is a big improvement over Windows 3.1, and there are lots of people who like it, including me.

However, there are some things not to like about Windows 95. First, contrary to what Microsoft's public relations folks once told us, Windows 95 is NOT an operating system (as is MS-DOS 6.22, for example). It is just a large integrated series of GUI (Graphical User Interface) programs that sit on top of the MS-DOS 7 operating system that really controls your computer. Nevertheless, even though Windows 95 is not the true "chief" in your system, it tries to control all the action from the moment your machine is turned on. It does this by hiding DOS and refusing to let you work in DOS, except through a "DOS Window". Some DOS programs won't work properly in the DOS Window of Windows 95, probably because Windows 95 is still there in the background, controlling the action.

In addition, those of us who are making a transition from DOS and Windows 3.1 to Windows 95 feel much more secure if we are controlling things, instead relinquishing control to a GUI. In Windows 3.1, for example, if we wanted to work in DOS we could, because the machine booted into DOS. Then if we wanted to work in Windows, we simply typed WIN at the command prompt, and Windows 3.1 started. On exiting Windows, we were placed back in DOS. Why can't we do that in Windows 95? Well, folks, we can!

The machine I am using to write this article has Windows 95 on it. When I turn on the power, it boots into DOS; Windows 95 is not loaded. If I want to load it, I type WIN at the command prompt and it starts. If I am finished with Windows 95, I shut it down and return to the command prompt of DOS.

The balance of this article will be instructions on how to modify Windows 95 yourself to achieve the same end. Once done, it is trouble-free, and it restores control to you, the user. You lose nothing in the process, and you will love it. The process consists of renaming two files, and doing a bit of minor editing of a third. Take heart; you can do it.

In the instructions that follow, click means click with the LEFT mouse button. If the right button is to be clicked instead, it will be so stated. To begin, turn on your machine and let Windows 95 start. Then:

A. RENAME LOGOS.SYS to LOGOS.OLD:

1. Right click on Start, then right click on Explore.
2. Find the WINDOWS folder in the left panel, and click on it. The right panel will now show the folders and files in the WINDOWS folder.
3. Scroll down in the right panel until you find the file named LOGOS.SYS.
4. Click on LOGOS.SYS to highlight it.
5. Click File on the Exploring-Windows toolbar.
6. Click Rename.
7. Edit LOGOS.SYS to read LOGOS.OLD and press the enter key.

B. RENAME LOGOW.SYS to LOGOW.OLD:

1. Click on LOGOW.SYS to highlight it (this should be the next file in the list, below LOGOS.OLD).
2. Click File on the Exploring-Windows toolbar.
3. Click Rename.
4. Edit LOGOW.SYS to read LOGOW.OLD and press the enter key.

C. EDIT MSDOS.SYS:

1. In the left panel, scroll up to the root folder (directory). This is the one with (C:) in its label. Click it.
2. Click View on the Exploring toolbar.
3. Click Options.
4. In the View tab, make sure Show All Files is selected; if not, click on the button to select it.
5. Scroll down in the right panel until you find the file MSDOS.SYS. Right click it and select Properties from the menu.
6. Deselect Read-only and Hidden, then click OK.
7. Click File, then Open With, then select Notepad and click OK.
8. In the [Options] section, add the lines BootGUI=0 and Logo=0 (those are zeros, not the letter O!). If either line is already present, just edit it to change the 1 to a zero.
9. Click File; click Save.
10. Click File; click Exit.
11. Right click MSDOS.SYS, then Properties, and reset the attributes to Read-only and Hidden. Click OK.
12. Click the X in the upper right corner of the Explorer toolbar to close it.

D. FINISH UP

1. Reboot your machine; it should boot into the old familiar DOS command prompt (C: >).
2. If you have an AUTOEXEC.BAT file in the root directory, open it with any text (ASCII) editor such as the DOS Edit program, and make sure the PATH has at least the following three elements in it (the order really doesn't matter). The elements are labeled here for clarity; don't type in the --1--, etc.

PATH=C:\DOS;c:\WINDOWS;c:\WINDOWS\COMMAND
--1-----2-----3-----

If you don't have an AUTOEXEC.BAT file, create it and add the above.

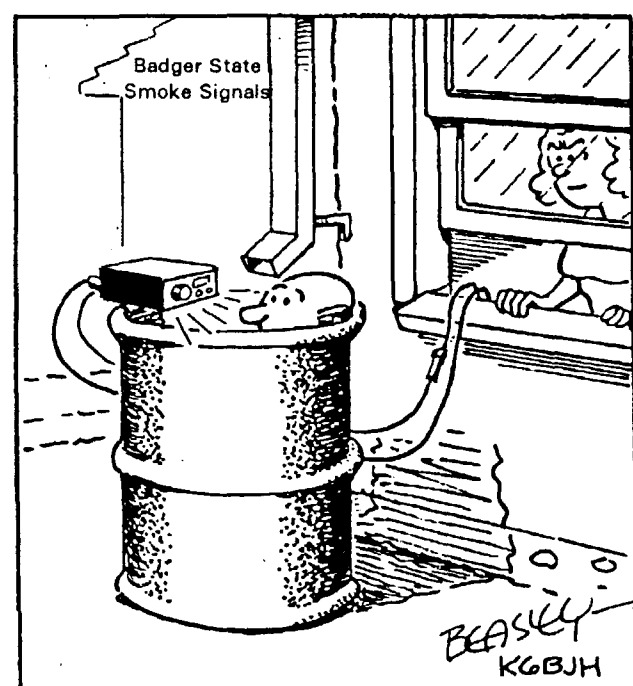
3. You are finished. Reboot again. Type WIN at the command prompt and you will get Windows 95. Shut down Windows 95 and you will be in DOS and can run almost any DOS program. The only ones that you are prevented from using are those which use direct disk access, such as some of the programs in PC Tools and Norton Utilities.

Some of these would damage the file structure if allowed to run. Fortunately, the DOS underneath Windows 95 will stop the system if this type of program is started, a good safety measure.

That's it. The first file you renamed was a bitmap picture shown during the shutdown process. The second file was another bitmap showing "Please wait.." during shutdown. Logo=0 removes the Windows 95 logo so you can see what is happening during processing of AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS. BootGUI=0 tells the machine not to boot Windows 95 on startup. You are back in control.

On the Lighter Side

By Bob Beasley, K6BJH



THAT MIKE SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE SITTING IN A RAIN BARREL, O.M.!

New Frequency Coordinator Appointed by WAR

The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters has appointed Dan Bolander, WB9TYT, as the W.A.R. Frequency Coordinator. Long involved in Packet, including coordination there as well as a former STA relay operator, Dan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job. Dan is available on E-mail, at bolander@execpc.com. Dan is the seventh person to hold the job, in the more than 25 years of coordination history in Wisconsin.

Dave Barrow, N9UNR, requested relief from the position, citing business pressure, and some health problems. Dave did a good job, and will still remain active in W.A.R. as a consultant. He hopes to modernize the coordination software, and, while not licensed in Wisconsin, his legal background is a valuable resource for some possible technical changes to the W.A.R. status.

NELS HARVEY, WA9JOB

Chairman, Wisconsin Association of Repeaters

Home (414) 241-3769

Vice President, Mid-America Coordination Council

2104 W. County Line Rd.

Packet WA9JOB @ N9PBY.EN63BI.WI.US.NA

Mequon, WI 53092-5616

Finally, if you just love having Windows 95 boot up automatically when you turn on your machine, simply add the three letters, WIN, as the last line of your AUTOEXEC.BAT file. That will do it. But later, when you shut down Windows 95, you will exit into DOS. Happy computing!

Reprinted, by permission, from the ORC Newsletter, Ozaukee Radio Club, P.O. Box 13, Port Washington, Wisconsin 53074 (Skip Douglas, KA9DDN, Editor). □

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Send this form, with your check or money order, to Jim Decker, WB9UQT, Treasurer, P.O. Box 337, Baraboo, WI 53913-0337. Please do NOT send cash!

February 1997

WOLX broadcast tower falls

Continued from front page



Ed Toal, WI9L, looks at the remains of what was the antenna mounting bracket for the primary antenna for 146.88.

PHOTO BY K9ZZ

associated 1/2 inch jacketed Heliac feedlines. Also lost were the antenna brackets for those antennae.

Tom Weeden, WJ9H, in the *SBE Chapter 24 Newsletter*, says that that the repeater and its controller were undamaged.

The CWRA Board is still assessing the situation.

The popular Sunday morning Swap Net has been moved to CWRA's other 2-meter repeater in Madison, 146.94. More information, from CWRA, is in the article at right.

From the Central Wisconsin Repeater Association: THE MISSING SIGNAL

On December 31st, after eight days of freezing temperatures accompanied with drizzle and mist, ice had built up on the WOLX tower to the extent that the additional weight and wind load caused it to fail. The bottom half of the tower fell across the garage and driveway; the top half came straight down, hit the ground, finally falling in the opposite direction. With the possible exception of several co-ax connectors, the tower and everything on it was destroyed. WOLX and several tenants -- including CWRA's 146.28/88 repeater -- suffered the loss of their antennas and feedlines, effectively taking them off-the-air.

WOLX was able to obtain a temporary antenna and feedline and is currently operating from a 60 foot tower on the site. The other tenants will have to wait until late spring when a new tower will be erected before resuming operation from the site.

The CWRA board of directors met on January 9th to plan the course of action necessary to accomplish the rebuild of the 28/88 antenna system. It took very little discussion to confirm that the superior performance of that site mandates that the rebuild occur there. Initial estimates indicate that costs for the antennas, feedlines, ice shields, labor, etc., will be right at \$5,000; a shortfall of 2,000 + dollars, based on the status of the treasury.

The end result is that the 28/88 machine will be off-the-air for several months and that there is not currently enough money available to fund the replacement parts. Because CWRA's other machine, the 146.34/94 machine, is performing so well, it was felt that the present membership would still be well served in the interim. The financing issue is more difficult and special action is necessary. An effort will be made to increase membership. There are many users who are not currently members. Their participation would be a big help. There are additional ways of supporting the rebuild effort; renewing membership now for 1997, renewing for several years at one time, donations from individuals and/or organizations, etc. The assistance and offers of assistance are very encouraging. With your continued help, CWRA will be ready to go just as soon as the new tower is up.

So, if you haven't done so yet this year, get out your check book, write a check to CWRA for \$20 and mail it to P. O. Box 802, Madison, WI 53701. A sale or purchase on the Swapnet, timely weather information or the pleasure of effective mobile communication makes your twenty dollars a very reasonable membership fee.

Gari Berliot, NG9V/Central Wisconsin Repeater Association

ACTION AUCTION!

February 25, 1997 • 7 P.M.

American Legion Post 53
634 Water Street
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

DOORS OPEN AT 6 P.M.

ADMISSION: \$3.00, OR PAID 1997 RCRA SUPPORT

Sell Your Gear • Mark all Items!
Club Retains 10% of all sales

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For more information, contact Steve Hart, KA9OMC
E616 810th Avenue, Knapp, WI 54749
(715) 665-2374

Hams Help in Flooding

Continued from front page

in the extreme southwestern portion of the state went down when a fiber optic cable was severed. Ham radio took over, linking the county via HF with the state emergency operations center in Salem. Oregon SEC Lew Williams, WD7NML, said Jackson and Josephine counties were the hardest hit. In Jackson County, hams helped provide communication at shelters there. Williams said hams also pitched in during sandbagging operations. In Nevada, Dick Creley, KJ7UK, of Gardnerville reports hams were activated on New Year's Day and provided secondary communication for the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, the Emergency Management Office and two shelters that housed some 50 residents.

The approximately 30 hams in Douglas County and Carson City put in a total of 350 work-hours. Creley said damage was extensive, and the cities of Minden and Gardnerville were isolated. Bruce Pfeiffer, N7CPP, of Carson City said telephone service remained in operation, limiting the need for ham radio communication support. His wife Sue Pfeiffer, N7PRF, and Reed Ross, W7HOP, manned a station at the Carson City EOC, while he and Jo Ann Paul, N7MBM, manned a station at a local Carson City shelter.

In Yerington, Nevada, 17-year-old Carrick Dunn, KB7OBE, provided the only communication link between his town and the outside world. (We'll report additional information on ham radio's role in the Western US flooding as it becomes available--Ed.)

--Amateur Radio Newsline/Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY

The ARRL Letter, 1/10/97

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1997 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY



Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club • See sponsor's comments on page 8



The Kettle Moraine Radio Amateurs won the 1996 club aggregate score competition. In the photo above, from left to right, are Lynn Tamblin, K9KR, of the West Allis Radio Amateur Club, presenting the club with their award for the best 1996 club score. Kneeling: Paul Sperbeck, WB9HCO; Ken Secora, N9KS (vertical); Rod Kleist, WB9AZH (kneeling); Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT; Adrew Mueller, WA9BPG (KMRA president); Glen Rantala, WA1UJU; Bob Braun, K9OSH; Steve Robinson, WU9B; Bruce Herrick, WW1M; and James White, WB9YCS (WARAC president). With the exceptions of K9KR and WB9YCS, all are KMRA members.



The 1996 single operator/fixed station category winner was Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, center. He is shown receiving his plaque from Lynn Tamblin, K9KR, Chairman of the WARAC Wisconsin QSO Party Committee (left), and James White, WB9YCS, president of WARAC. Both photos were taken at the 1996 South Milwaukee Swapfest.

PHOTOS COURTESY LYNN TAMBLYN/K9KR

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THE WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

March Madness in Wisconsin could be high school basketball. The Ides of March, St. Patty's Day, but is that all?

Wisconsin's QSO Party is just seven hours of fun. For Novices through Extra class, including everyone.

There's 80 meters down through 10, there's VHF and more. CW and sideband and it's easy, not a chore.

The exchange is very simple and the logging's easy too. To make your club score bigger, it surely could use you.

So take the plunge and operate, one hour, two or more. Check all your points, fill in the form, and total up the score.

If all of you participate in QSO party fun
And check out Badger Smoke Signals,
YOU could be Number One!

Judy Schneider, N9PBM
(Originally written for the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club)

1997 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY RULES

DATE/TIME:

1800Z MARCH 10 - 0100Z MARCH 9, 1997

MODES:

CW and Phone. All stations may be worked once per mode on each band. In addition, mobiles may be worked once per mode per Wisconsin county that they operate from. **No Repeater QSOs.**

ENTRY CLASSES:

Single Operator Fixed	Multi Operator Fixed	Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Fixed
Single Operator Mobile	Multi Operator Mobile	Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Mobile
Single Operator Novice	Multi Operator Novice	Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Novice
Single Operator Tech	Multi Operator Tech	Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Tech

EXCHANGE:

Wisconsin stations send county.
Non-Wisconsin stations send state or province or country.

FREQUENCIES:

CW: 3550, 3705, 7050, 7125, 14050, 15M CW, 10M CW, 6M CW, 2M CW
Phone: 3890, 7230, 14290, 21350, 28400, 6M SSB & FM, 2M SSB & FM
** Suggested - others may be used **

SCORING:

Phone contacts count 1 QSO Point; CW contacts count 2 QSO Points.

WISCONSIN STATIONS: Multiply the sum of QSO points by the sum of Wisconsin counties (max. 72), plus states (max. 50) plus Canadian provinces (max. 13) worked. Note: DX countries worked count for QSO points but not as multipliers.

NON-WISCONSIN STATIONS: Multiply the sum of QSO points by the number of Wisconsin counties worked (max. 72).

BONUS:

WISCONSIN MOBILES/PORTABLES: Add 500 bonus points for each county that you operate from, outside your home county, with a minimum of 15 QSOs per county to qualify.

LOGS:

Entries must contain a log consisting of: Time (GMT), call, band, state/province, Wisconsin county, mode and a complete Score Summary including YOUR name, address and call. Circle new multipliers as worked. Logs containing more than 200 QSOs must be accompanied by a dupe sheet (separate dupe sheet for each mode). Mobile entries must indicate county changes in log.

Entries must be postmarked by **March 31, 1997** and sent to:

WISCONSIN QSO PARTY
WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB
P. O. BOX 1072
MILWAUKEE, WI 53201

AWARDS:

NON-WISCONSIN: Awards will be presented to the following:

- Highest single operator score in the QSO Party.
- Highest single operator score in each single operator category in each state/province.

WISCONSIN: Awards will be presented to the following:

- Highest single operator score in the QSO Party.
- 10 highest single operator scores in each entry class.
- Highest multi-operator score in each entry class.
- Highest aggregate club score (club member stations to be located within 50 miles of the club, except for mobiles).

WISCONSIN COUNTIES

ADA adams
ASH ashland
BAR barron
BAY bayfield
BRO brown
BUF buffalo
BUR burnett
CAL calumet
CHI chippewa
CLA clark
COL columbia
CRA crawford
DAN dane
DOD dodge
DOO door
DOU douglas
DUN dunn
EAU eau claire

FLO florence
FON fond du lac
FOR forest
GRA grant
GRE green
GRL green lake
IOW iowa
IRO iron
JAC jackson
JEF jefferson
JUN juneau
KEN kenosha
KEW kewaunee
LAC la crosse
LAY lafayette
LAN langlade
LIN lincoln
MAN manitowoc

MAR marathon
MRN marinette
MRQ marquette
MEN menominee
MIL milwaukee
MON monroe
OCO oconto
ONE oneida
OUT outagamie
OZA ozaukee
PEP pepin
PIE pierce
POL polk
POR portage
PRI price
RAC racine
RIC richland
ROC rock

RUS rusk
SAU sauk
SAW sawyer
SHA shawano
SHE sheboygan
STC st croix
TAY taylor
TRE trempealeau
VER vernon
VIL vilas
WAL walworth
WSB washburn
WAS washington
WAU waukesha
WAP waupaca
WSR waushara
WIN winnebago
WOO wood



1997 Wisconsin QSO Party



Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club

The 1997 Wisconsin QSO Party (WQP) is scheduled to begin at 12 noon CST (1800Z) SUNDAY MARCH 9, 1997, and will run till 7 PM (0100Z March 10). The annual 7 hour event is sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club (WARAC). WQP is open to all hams, regardless of class or location. WQP is also an opportunity to work some of the "rare" Wisconsin counties, due to the many mobiles that take to Wisconsin highways, to activate these counties, in their efforts to operate from as many counties as they can during the 7 hours.

The entry/rules form is printed in this issue of Smoke Signals, along with a suggested list of abbreviations. You can also find the entry/rules form and abbreviations listed on your favorite bulletin board on packet, as well as being listed on the world wide web, for those who have access to that system. It is under WA9POV home page, address:

<http://www.execpc.com/WARAC>.

For those who do not have access to any of the above, you can still send a request for forms/information to our post office box: WARAC WQP, P.O. Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201. We have log sheets for WQP for those that use paper logging - send a request to our post office box. Remember, all entry forms need to be postmarked by March 31, 1997 to be entered in this year's WQP. ALL ENTRIES need to be mailed to our post office box.

Again this year WARAC will be issuing "the top award" for the HIGHEST SINGLE OPERATOR score from WITHIN WISCONSIN and also from an entry OUTSIDE OF WISCONSIN. It will include a plaque and a taste of Wisconsin.

Ken Secora, N9KS, wrote a fine article about WQP in the last issue of Smoke Signals that I hope you all read. His comments and suggestions were very appropriate. For those who missed the article, I incorporated one suggestion in the comments in the next paragraph.

Number 1 - Two years ago we adjusted the "suggested" list of frequencies to try and be as GENERIC as possible. We still are getting comments about the VHF area. It seems as though all the stations stay on 146.52. We encourage stations to use the entire band as much as possible. Move around a lot. Call CQ a lot so other stations know you are there. Ken's comments apply here - "use 2 meter FM and move off the calling frequency of 146.52 to other simplex frequencies as OFTEN AS YOU CAN. That gives other stations a chance to call on 146.52."

Number 2 - We STRONGLY suggest that VHF/UHF be utilized in other modes besides just FM. We encourage use of CW and SSB. Our contest has TWO MODES - phone and CW. The same station can be worked once on CW and once on phone per band. CW contacts are worth two points. Why not try CW? (this also applies to CW on the HF bands). And don't forget to check the lower ends of the VHF/UHF bands for the SSB stations. They would like more activity, too.

Number 3 - Signal reports are at your option. Nowhere in the rules does it indicate that a signal report is required. If you want to give a signal report in your exchange, then do so. If you prefer not to, then don't.

Ken's other suggestions are worth repeating: "a few more suggestions for mobile or portable stations. Use a separate log sheet for each county that you operate from. Keep the modes separate and use GMT times." "Home stations, please listen for mobiles and even ask if there are any mobiles calling." "When you call CQ, always give the county you are in. Then other stations will know when you change counties and will call you."

The other comment I need to make relates to the logging of mobile and/or portable stations. A lot of entries seem to have problems with this, as it relates to DUPES. Ken encourages the use of the WA1UJU WIQP logging program. We encourage using it too, since this program was written specifically for our contest. It handles logging of the mobiles as they change counties.

If you have another logging program, we have a suggestion for mobile logging - when you log the callsign, add a "/" and then a 3 letter county abbreviation (from the suggested county abbreviation list). For example, N9KS is operating from Milwaukee County. Enter his callsign as N9KS/MIL. When he changes to Ozaukee County, enter his callsign as N9KS/OZA. Your logging program will take both entries, thinking it is two different stations and not register it as a DUPE. I have seen this trick used by a lot of stations in their logging programs, so I know it works.

Do not forget that WQP is also an opportunity to work the 72 Wisconsin counties needed for you to qualify for the WARAC sponsored WAWC (Worked All Wisconsin Counties) AWARD.

We also suggest that everyone include a picture of their operation. And for those so inclined, maybe a short

CANADIAN PROVINCES

ALB alberta
BC british columbia
LAB labrador
MAN manitoba
NB new brunswick

NEW newfoundland
NWT northwest territory
NS nova scotia
ONT ontario

PEI prince edward island
QUE quebec
SAS saskatchewan
YT yukon territory

STATES

AL alabama
AK alaska
AZ arizona
AR arkansas
CA california
CO colorado
CT connecticut
DE delaware
FL florida
GA georgia
HI hawaii
IA iowa
ID idaho
IL illinois
IN indiana
KS kansas
KY kentucky

LA louisiana
MD maryland (D.C.)
MA massachusetts
ME maine
MI michigan
MN minnesota
MS mississippi
MO missouri
MT montana
NE nebraska
NV nevada
NH new hampshire
NJ new jersey
NM new mexico
NY new york
NC north carolina
ND north dakota

OH ohio
OK oklahoma
OR oregon
PA pennsylvania
RI rhode island
SC south carolina
SD south dakota
TN tennessee
TX texas
UT utah
VT vermont
VA virginia
WA washington
WV west virginia
WI wisconsin
WY wyoming

1997 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY SCORE SUMMARY SHEET

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____

Home WI County _____ Club Affiliation _____

ENTRY CLASS: ☐ Single Op Fixed ☐ Multi Op Fixed ☐ Multi-Multi Fixed
☐ Single Op Mobile ☐ Multi Op Mobile ☐ Multi-Multi Mobile
☐ Single Op Novice ☐ Multi Op Novice ☐ Multi-Multi Novice
☐ Single Op Tech ☐ Multi Op Tech ☐ Multi-Multi Tech

WI Counties Worked From _____

SCORING: CW QSOs _____ x 2 = _____ CW Points
Phone QSOs _____ x 1 = _____ Phone Points
Sum of CW + Phone Points = _____ QSO Points
Number of Multipliers = _____ Multipliers
Wis. Counties (Max. 72) _____
States (Max. 50) _____
Provinces (Max. 13) _____
QSO Points x Multipliers = _____ Points
Bonus Points = _____ Points
Final Score = _____ Points

I have followed the WISCONSIN QSO PARTY RULES. (ALL OPERATORS must sign - CLEARLY - including callsign)

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

To qualify, entries must be postmarked by March 31, 1997 and sent to: 1997 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY, WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, P. O. BOX 1072, MILWAUKEE, WI 53201. Entries may be disqualified if the QSO Party Rules are not followed. The decision of the Wisconsin QSO Party Rules Committee shall be final. Results will be published in *Badger State Smoke Signals* which will be sent to all entrants.

Continued on page 9

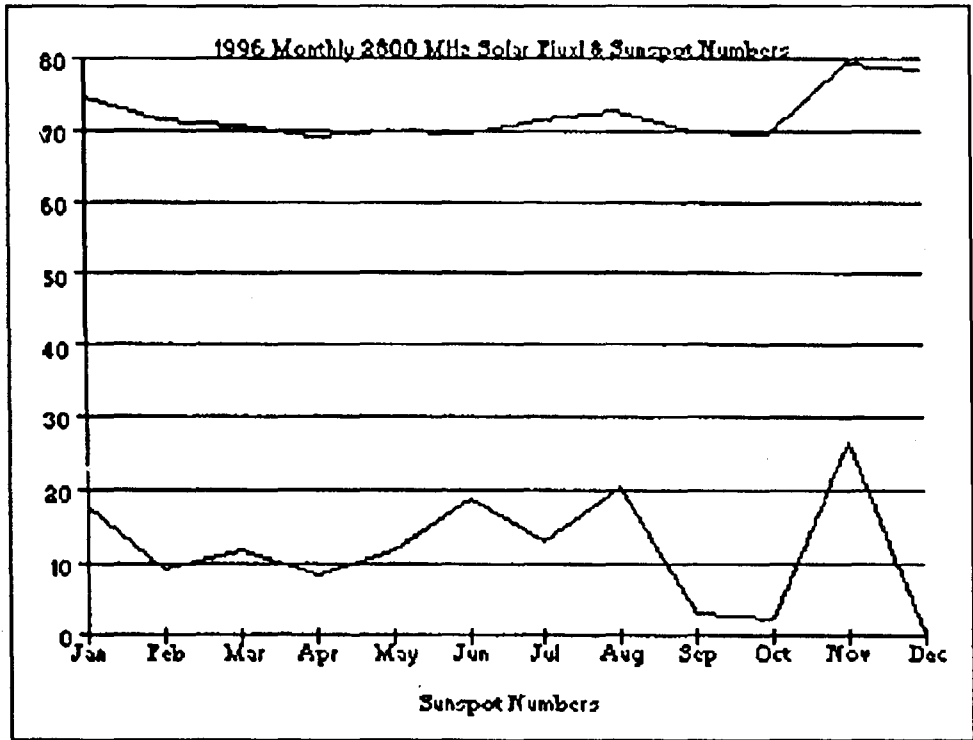
THE END OF SOLAR CYCLE 22?
THE START OF CYCLE 23?

Does Anyone Know for Sure?

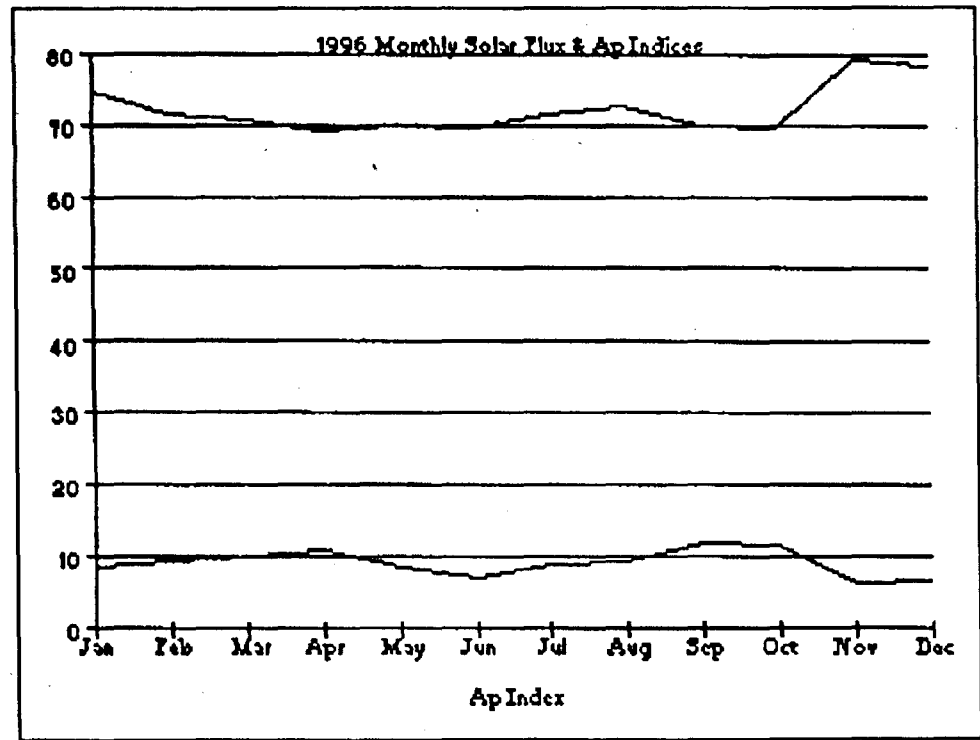
By Woody Minar, K9EF
35808 Tabscott Lane
Chantilly VA

For this issue, I was hoping to have something official as to when Cycle 22 ended and Cycle 23 started (assuming Cycle 22 has, indeed, ended). Lacking that information, here's what I see from my data.

In Chart 1 below, I've compared the monthly average of the daily 2800 MHz Solar Flux Units and the Observed Sunspot Numbers for each month in 1996. Based on this, both plots reached minimum in October, 1996. This suggests that the Cycle transition occurred in October, 1996.



Taking this a step further, Chart 2 below compares the monthly average of the daily 2800 MHz Solar Flux Units and the Planetary Alpha (Ap) Indices. If you recall, poor propagation occurs when the Ap index is high AND the Solar Flux is low; conversely for good propagation. With this fact in mind, Chart 2 also suggests that the Cycle transition occurred in October, 1996.



Great Circus Train Certificates

All of the certificates have been mailed to those stations which worked the 1996 special event station aboard the Great Circus Train in July. All of those, that is, who sent the required self-addressed, stamped envelope.

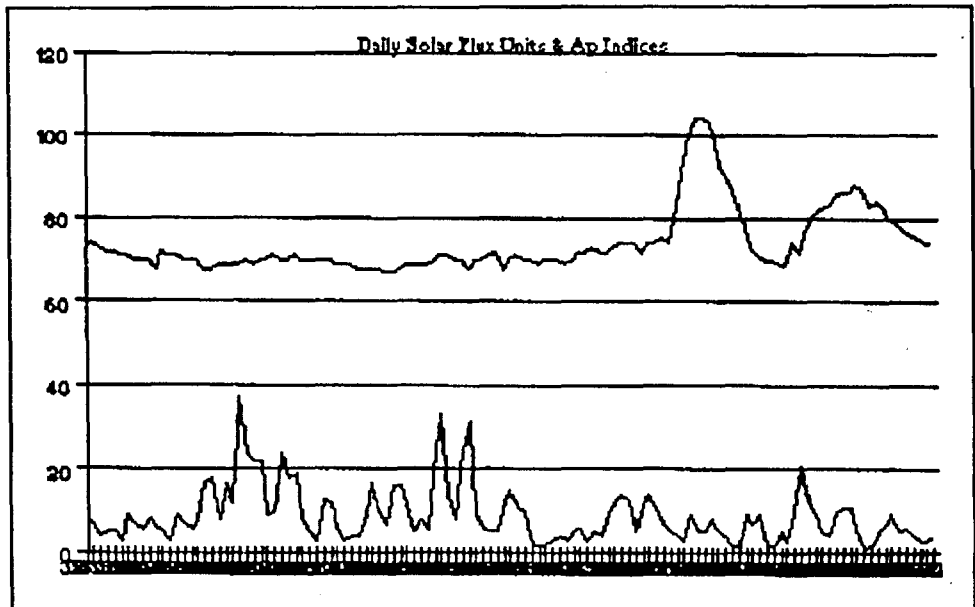
A lot of 2-meter contacts were made. However, far too many failed to send the SASE and so did not get a certificate. The number was so low, in fact, that we probably will NOT operate 2-meter FM in 1997.

The requirement for a 9x12 SASE is for two reasons: The certificate can be mailed flat, not folded, and, WE don't have to pay postage for, say about 70 certificates. Multiply 70 times the two-plus ounce rate.. EXPENSIVE! So, if you worked K9-JYX/Railroad Mobile last July, please send that 9 x 12 envelope, with two stamps on it, and send it to Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo WI 53913. We will try to get your certificate you just as fast as possible. We WANT to, but we have to ask you to do YOUR part, too. Many thanks.

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ



Now, if we extract a segment from Chart 2 and expand it, we get the raw, daily Solar Flux and Ap data shown in Chart 3 below. This chart suggests that the transition occurred the week of October 19th. (Notice the two large Ap spikes and lower than average Solar Flux). One could argue that the minimum reached a low the week of September 21st; but, I think Charts 1 and 2 rule out September as THE month.



Conclusion? Having little fear of public ridicule, I offer that Cycle 23 began on October 25th, 1996. This is based on the maximum low that occurred on October 24th (high Ap index and low Solar Flux).

For your background information, the NOAA reports in their Solar Cycle 23 Project: Summary of Panel Findings that "The general trend in recent solar activity cycles is toward larger amplitude sunspot cycles; Cycle 19 was the largest in recorded history (smoothed sunspot number maximum of 201 in November, 1957), and Cycle 22 was the third largest (smoothed maximum of 159 in July, 1989). Cycles 21 and 22 both showed annual averages of geomagnetic activity that were large in comparison with most cycles The prediction technique based on the empirical result that odd-numbered cycles are larger than their preceding cycle, suggests that the next cycle will exceed Cycle 22 and could be larger than Cycle 19. The general trend of cycle amplitudes is also increasing; recent cycles have been large. Based on such an analysis, there is a reasonable probability that Cycle 23 will equal, or exceed, Cycle 19. This does not, however, consider the observed conditions that are the basis of the precursor technique. The conditions presently being observed in the Sun-Earth environment are not consistent with those observed prior to Cycle 19 and do not support the idea that Cycle 23 will be as large as Cycle 19."

If anyone has any comments, questions, or suggestions regarding my propagation predictions, you can e-mail them to me at WISBRED@AOL.COM. Your thoughts for future articles are certainly welcomed. 73.

Wisconsin QSO Party

Continued from page 8

article would be nice. Smoke Signals (BSSS) has space available. Either send them to Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, BSSS Editor, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913 OR to our post office box. WARAC encourages as much publicity as possible.

Smoke Signals will remain our OFFICIAL publication for WQP. As usual, the complete results will be printed in Smoke Signals, which will be mailed FREE to all entrants.

To quote my favorite editor, I close with this - known nationwide as one of the best QSO parties going, the annual Wisconsin QSO Party is a seven-hour-long "sprint." Serious contesters, casual operators, and everyone in between, will find fun in this one. It's open to hams of all license classes and it offers those interested in getting the "feel" of contesting an enjoyable way to get their feet wet. Even those amateurs who don't usually operate in contests will find fun here, especially if they are in one of the more rare Wisconsin counties. If you are in the "casual" operator category, pop in the contest for an hour or so. You might just enjoy it. You might also be surprised who you run across.

When operating, please listen for the weaker signals. They will probably be the mobile stations working hard to provide the rare counties OR the out-of-state stations on one of the higher frequency bands. Wisconsin stations be sure to call CQ on the higher frequency bands to enable the out-of-state stations to fully participate, BOTH on phone and CW.

See you the second Sunday of March, 1997.

for WARAC
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Chairman WQP

FCC issued callsign update

The following is a list of the FCC's most recently issued call signs as of January 3, 1997.

District	Group A Am Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0DT	KI0FZ	+	KB0ZHO
1	AA1RJ	KE1GR	N1YJC	KB1CBC
2	AB2CX	KG2JT	+	KC2AON
3	AA3PF	KE3YN	N3YNM	KB3BRK
4	AE4ZS	KU4AA	+	KF4OET
5	AC5KZ	KM5FW	+	KC5YLE
6	AC6ZG	KQ6MB	+	KF6IER
7	AB7TP	KK7EC	+	KC7UAL
8	AA8YX	KI8AJ	+	KC8FSM
9	AA9TR	KG9IU	+	KB9PHE
N. Mariana				
Island	NH0A	AH0AW	KH0FS	WH0ABF
Guam	+	AH2DC	KH2RI	WH2ANR
Hawaii	AH7J	AH6OX	KH7CI	WH6DCW
Am Samoa	AH8O	AH8AH	KH8DC	WH8ABF
Alaska	#	AL7QT	KL0CR	WL7CTY
Virgin Islands	WP2X	KP2CJ	NP2JO	WP2AIH
Puerto Rico	KP3V	KP3AO	NP3JD	WP4NMT

New prefixes are available for this block, but none have been issued.
+ + All call signs in this group have been issued in this area.

The ARRL Letter, 1/10/97

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters

Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS, Secretary
1523 E. Moonbeam Tr. • Appleton, WI 54915



WAR Minutes
December 14, 1996

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Nels Harvey, WA9JOB at 1:03 P.M.

Introductions of guests and members:

Nels Harvey	WA9JOB
Mark Heimmermann	KF9CS
Bill Niemuth	KB9ENO
Jim Sheetz	K9OQO
Kris Woolsey	KA9HQE
Bob D. Gollubske	KA9SOT
Kevin Drissel	N9OIG
Robin Mather	N9RNA
Richard Kosiorek	WX9C
Joe Priebe	W9YZS
Jim Caldwell	WB9YPY
Jeff Schmeichel	KB9BYP
Virgil Burmeister	WB9MHS
Greg Schneider	W9IEI
Ken Moran	WA4COY
Dave Barrow	N9UNR

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Sheetz, K9OQO. The current balance in the savings account is \$1119.35 with \$99.53 in cash on hand plus some stamps. So the WAR net worth is \$1218.88 plus the stamps. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Newsletter report: NOTE - The frequency list for December does not show any cities after Union Grove. We apologize sincerely for leaving out repeaters.

Coordination Report: Dave Barrow, N9UNR. Dave has been very busy trying to stay on top of the updates. He hopes to catch up in the following months. Dave plans to maintain a web page with coordinations pending and updates with a link from the WAR web page.

The software project has been put on hold. We do not expect the new software until the first of the year.

There are no pairs available between Green Bay and the state line. We have two mechanisms in place to open up some pairs. One of them is the annual update (which everyone thinks is a pain). Any repeater that does not update will be de-coordinated. The other thing Dave has instituted is the channel buddy. If someone needs a frequency and Dave can find a frequency that is a paper repeater he will go to bat for you to put you on that frequency where somebody is not operating.

We have a time limit on how long a repeater can be off the air without losing its coordination. These are the tools we have to help to ensure the best utilization of our spectrum.

Chairman's Report: Nels Harvey, WA9JOB. Spacing Situation: I had a long talk with Mike McCarthy on establishing how far apart repeaters can be. I think we have a basic concept that seems to make sense. That is to determine how far does a repeater really cover. You take a single site repeater and if it operates at 200 watts ERP, that's going to cover X amount of miles. You'll get to a point where you're not going to pick it up and that depends on the antenna height, the terrain and the propagation. We are trying to get a model to promote throughout the coordination industry.

The National Frequency Coordination Council exists and it has been accepted by the ARRL. The ARRL is only providing clerical services. This is an outcome of the big October meeting a year ago in St. Louis. The coordinators from all over the country such as myself were there. One of the efforts that the NFCC has on the top of its list is to put a petition in for the FCC to change the rules to require coordination of repeaters.

Old Business

For this year's *ARRL Repeater Directory*, Dave will include all the repeaters that updated in either 1995 or 1996. Beginning with the June repeater listing only repeaters that updated in 1997 will be shown.

New Business

People are needed to work on the nomination committee. It would probably be best to have someone on with E-mail access. We want some competition for the offices of: chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer.

The next meeting place will be in Green Bay on March 8, 1997. More information will follow in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:
Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS
Secretary

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Jim Merrill, W9AYK, Secretary • W283 Hillendale Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Mgr.
BWN	Yes	3985	1100	0600	W9AYK
BEN	Yes	3985	1700	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2230	1730	K9UTQ
WNN	Yes	3723	2300	1800	N9MXW
WSSN	Yes	3645	2330	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0000	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0300	2200	W9UW
NWTN	Yes	34/94	2330	1830	NS9Q
(Rhinelander area)					
RCRA	No	01/61 (Mondays CST)	2330	1830	KA9OMC
Gr. Bay	No	72/12 (Green Bay Area)	0145	2045	WB9NRK
ARES	No	4.65/5.25 (South East/South Central Wisconsin)	0100	2000	
RACES	No	3993.5 (LSB Sunday)	1300	0800	WA9OAY

WISCONSIN NTS TRAFFIC REPORT

December 1996

In December, check-ins are down and traffic is up. Conditions are still terrible for every net except the Badger Emergency Net. If the sun is down, things are bad. A big tip of the hat to all of the stations who are putting forth the effort to keep things going. At least the days are getting longer and the propagation gurus are saying cycle 22 ended last summer sometime. Now if cycle 23 will just get off to a screaming start.

Jim Merrill, W9AYK, BWN N/M, is still in the hospital in Waukesha. He hopes to be home soon.

With seven out of the eight nets reporting, 3188 stations passed 2759 pieces of traffic in December. Badger Weather Net delegate W9IHW reported 1637 stations and 2516 messages. Badger Emergency Net NM KE9VU reported 729 stations and 86 messages. No report was received from Wisconsin Sideband Net NM K9UTQ. N9JIY reported 12 stations and 1 message on the Wisconsin Novice Net. Wisconsin Slow Speed Net NM N9BDL reported 288 stations and 14 messages. Wisconsin Interstate Net/Early NM WB9ICH reported 216 stations and 82 messages. Wisconsin Interstate Net/Late NM W9UW reported 182 stations and 31 messages. Northwoods Traffic Net NM NS9Q reported 124 stations and 29 messages passed.

In November, ten stations had traffic totals in excess of 100, three of whom made Brass Pounders League. The stations

are: WB9JSW/1845 (BPL), W9IHW/1430 (BPL), AA0OM/1098 (BPL), N9TMI/406, K9FHI/245, W9CBE/228, W9YCV/206, N9KHD/159, N9BDL/126, and N9CK/121.

Twenty eight stations submitted Station Activity reports, and ten stations submitted Public Service Honor Roll reports.

I mail my reports to League Headquarters on the 7th of the month. That makes the deadline for reports the 6th. I can accept reports until I start printing them up for mailing. If you can catch me on the BWN on the morning of the 7th all would be well.

Hale Blakely, W9CBE, Asst. STM will also accept reports and forward them to me. Hale covers most of the CW and SSB nets so there is someone on almost every net to take reports.

Reports can also be sent VIA packet or e-mail.

My packet address is:

KA9KLZ @ NX9V.WI.USA.NOAM

My e-mail address is:

aevans@mhtc.net

Thanks to all stations who participate in the Wisconsin nets. You are the nets and Wisconsin nets are the best.

73.

Submitted by:
Arthur A. Evans, KA9KLZ
Wisconsin Section Traffic Manager
January 7, 1997

Notes From the Section Manager

Roy Pedersen, K9FHI • 510 Park Street
Juneau, WI 53039



Congratulations to Tom K9BTQ and his wife celebrating 29th anniversary and Phil (N9FEW) and Beulah Nofitz their 48th. (Hamtrix).

Mancorad club will be celebrating 50 years of its founding as of December 10, 1996 and 50 years of affiliation as of February 20, 1997. Believed to be the first members of Mancorad are W9BZU, Chuck Scholten, and W9TQV, Hilbert Willis.

New officers RRRC, Pres. KB9MKP, V. Pres. W9BCV, Sec. KB9NIV, Treas. N9QMS, Program Director KA9BAE.

Does your club have training exercises for emergency preparedness? Be sure you are ready for anything that comes up.

Some clubs have a contest between HF and VHF for their doings. (Tri-County News).

I have had calls from others about interference; contact Official Observer

Coordinator AC9C for brochures for this.

Band conditions for BWN and WSBN along with the CW nets have been very bad. The BWN and WSBN have a lot of help with two out of state stations; they are AA0OM and N9TMI. Thanks a million, guys.

New manager for D9RN is KD4NYC, Dave, from Owensboro Kentucky. Congratulations, Dave, we will help all we can.

ARRL has declared 1997 as the "ARRL Year of Public Service". Also, FEMA supports Amateur Radio in the Little Leo battle. (ARRL Section Leader).

Amateur Radio will have a permanent presence in space, to be known as ARISS. (OzaukeeRC).

I regret to report the following Silent Keys: W9RG, W9ZM, W9HIF, W9GVG, N9ZN.

Mancorad Radio Club

Dave Shemchak, KB9KQA,
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output



MEETING MINUTES January 8, 1997

Janice, N9IQZ, club president, called the January meeting of the ManCoRad Radio Club to order at 1930 hrs.

The December minutes as published in the *Badger State Smoke Signals* were approved. Motion made by Barney, N9XER, seconded by Red, N9GHE.

The Treasurer's report as read by

Glenn, AA9MT, was approved. Motion made by Theresa, KB9KXE, seconded by Ken, WB9OBX.

Old Business

Janice, N9IQZ, reminded everybody about the Christmas party on January 17th at the Cedar Ridge Restaurant in Maribel.

Continued on page 11

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.74 Input/51.24 Output

Meeting Minutes January 7, 1997

The meeting was called to order by President Jim, N9SDI. Members present were: N9SDL, N9OWD, N9LIA, N9SDN, N9SDM, N9NQY, KB9FRB, KB9DZG, N9TTA, KB9MCZ, KB9DED, N9IAB, K9BX, WB9LIA and N9FOL. The meeting minutes as printed in the *Badger State Smoke Signals* and treasurer's Report were approved with a motion from KB9DED and 2nd by N9NQY and passed by members present.

Upcoming Events were discussed, such as Special Olympics Winter Games, with Jack, N9LIA, being the contact person. Hams should be at Indian Head Golf Course in Mosinee by 9:30 on Saturday Jan. 25 with the event starting at 10:00. Be there at 9:00 on Sunday. Also discussed were the Badger State Winter Games with contact person for that being Mike, N9IAB. The Mid-Winter Madness Hobby and Electronics event will be held in Blaine, MN on Feb. 8th.

Old Business

Discussed was the progress on our WVRA tax exempt status. N9LIA indicated that the IRS returned the forms back to us for minor correction and has been sent back to the IRS. We should possibly have the tax exempt status by the end of February. He also indicated that he has heard nothing yet on the 6 meter repeater's coordinated freq. pair.

Mike, KB9DED, will be setting up a meeting with the ARES Committee. Mem-

bers are: Rich-KC9NW, Dee-N9SDM, Scott-N9NQY, and Mike-KB9DED.

We receive a Thank you letter from the North Central Health Care Center for the donation of Christmas gifts by WVRA club members. The gifts were very much appreciated.

My thank you to those of you that gave so that others might receive. Mike, N9IAB, picked up the telescopic mast from Channel 9 and has started to take it apart in preparation for its rebuilding. Doc, K9BX, related to us that he was informed by the Marathon County Library that they have received eleven new Ham publications that will be added to the Ham Radio selections. If you get a chance give a word of thanks to Mike Oconor at the library for making this happen.

New Business

The WVRA By Laws were modified to indicate our fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year. This was suggested to facilitate acceptance and coincide with the IRS year. The motion for this was by Dee, N9SDM, and 2nd by Don, N9NQY, and passed by the membership present.

The bus trip to the Madison Hamfest on April 13 was discussed. Jim, N9SDI, indicated that a minimum number must be signed up and paid by the April meeting in order to reserve the bus.

Meeting was adjourned with a motion from Tom, N9TTA, and 2nd by Dan, N9OWD.

A really great HF program was enjoyed by all as presented by Doc, K9BX. Thanks, Doc!

ManCoRad Radio Club

Continued from page 10

Chuck Scholten, W9BZU, one of the Club's founding members, will be guest of honor. Social hour from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome! Contact Glenn, AA9MT, for reservation information.

Janice, N9IQZ, passed around an article, on the 50th Anniversary of ManCoRad, from the *Herald-Times-Reporter*. Still waiting for the article in the *Chronicle*.

Dick, N9QFY, and myself, KB9KQA, reviewed the new Novice/Technician tape course from ARRL. The course will be a big help for the upcoming Novice/Technician class. Classes are scheduled to begin on Thursday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the Club Shack.

John, NZ9Z, and Eric, WD9IAB, reviewed the new General tape course from the ARRL. They will be holding an upgrade course starting on January 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Club Shack. 12 Members have signed up so far for the first upgrade class in a LONG time. John said he would take pity on those of us whose CW is a mite rusty, and start with a refresher course. New course materials were donated in Memory of George Cox, W00BB.

Ron, WS9X, is planning a computer construction class starting on January 15th and continuing on January 22nd. The class will cover the components that make up a computer, differences between the different models, and a discussion on how it all works together. Classes start at 6:30 p.m. at the Club Shack on both dates.

Janice, N9IQZ, is still looking for a volunteer to organize our Field Day operation this year. Field Day is scheduled for the 28th and 29th of June.

Janice, N9IQZ, would also like a volunteer to organize our annual Special Event Station aboard the USS Cobia.

Ron, WS9X, passed out wallet sized membership cards for all current Members of the Club. New Members, who have not yet received their Membership Certificate, are asked to see Ron. Old Members are reminded to bring their Certificates to a Club Meeting to be updated for 1997.

New Business

John, NZ9Z, made available some

information on a new Internet Service Provider in the area.

A big thanks to Steve, N9PBL, for the donation of an MFJ-1278 Multi-Mode TNC. The clubs' MFJ-1270 will be loaned, indefinitely, to Manitowoc County Emergency Government.

The monitors and keyboards donated by Ken, WB9OBX, are available to club members for the taking on the condition that they aren't returned! We have a number of them, but we don't have a lot of storage space!

Barney asked for a discussion on the possibility of moving the Club Meeting time back to 7:00 p.m. After much QRM and QRN, the general consensus was that Barney was the only one who wanted to change. The meeting time will stay at 7:30 p.m.

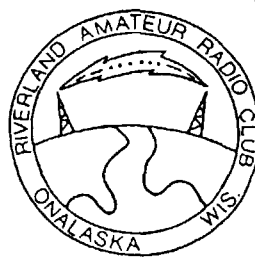
Denise, N4WGK, will be donating a picture of herself from the *Herald-Times-Reporter*. The picture is from 1956 when she became the first licensed female Amateur in Manitowoc County. The picture will be added to Club historical records.

Red, N9GHE, made a motion to adjourn. Barney, N9XER, seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 2005 hrs.

Submitted for approval:
Dave Shemchak, KB9KQA, Secretary

Meeting Attendance

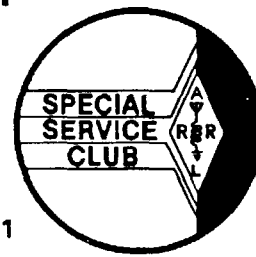
Janice	N9IQZ
Dave	KB9KQA
Glenn	AA9MT
Dick	N9QFY
Theresa	KB9KXE
Gene	KB9KXF
Barney	N9XER
John	NZ9Z
Eric	WD9IAB
Clarke	K8BP
Les	WB9MNQ
Ken	WB9OBX
Dave	N9UGI
Denise	N4WGK
Roger	W9NPX
Clancy	K9WIX
Tom	KB9GRC
Paul	N9QFX
Bill	K9DUX
Patti	KB9NNX
Red	N9GHE
Fred	W6BSF
Bob	KB9INK
Tom	KB9JIR
Ron	WS9X



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Dan Abts, N9PZC
Secretary

Club mail address: P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650



MEETING MINUTES January 7, 1997

The January meeting of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on January 7, 1997 by President Duane, W9HWQ. There were 32 people in attendance.

The minutes of the December meeting were accepted as printed in the *Badger State Smoke Signals*.

Roger, KA9BKK, read the treasurer's report. It was accepted as read. Dues for 1997 should be paid by March. Cal, KB9MAO, and Peg, KB9PCJ, were welcomed as new members into the club.

Programs: The program for January was a miniswapfest with part of the proceeds going to the club.

The program for the February meeting will be on the Amateur Packet Reporting System. Bob, N9LZK, is putting together a calendar of upcoming programs and events. See the club's web page <http://www.lse.fullfeed.com/~rarc/rarc.htm> for up-to-date information.

444.475 Repeater: Dan, N9PZC, reported that the repeater is working fine.

Net Manager: Mark, N9UNW, reported that the Sunday Night Net has been held regularly with between 15 and 20 check-ins. He encouraged new people to sign-up to give net control a try.

ARES/Skywarn: Tom, WB9BJQ, reported that they are working with a program to view radar maps from the National Weather Service on the AA9AW packet radio BBS. They would be updated

every thirty minutes during severe weather. Kent, W9LZQ, said that there will be an Introduction to Disaster Services and Damage Assessment training classes held on January 18, 1997. Red, W00W, reminded us that there will be a practice search held in early March for area hams willing to help Houston county in times of need.

Property Manager: Bob, N9LZK, had nothing new to report.

146.97 Repeater: Walt, AA9AW, said there was nothing new to report.

Field Day: Bill, KE9XQ, had nothing new to report.

VE: Bill, KE9XQ, said no test dates have been set yet for 1997.

Old Business

Roger, KA9BKK, reported that the club will be holding no-code technician classes at Logan High School at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays starting February 6, 1997. The classes will last 90 minutes and run for 11 weeks.

New Business

None.

A motion was made at 8:10 p.m. by Kent, W9LZQ, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bob, N9LZK, and passed.

Respectfully submitted by Dan, N9PZC

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-.67 and Club Station

P. O. Box 923 • Plover, WI 54467

MEETING MINUTES January 8, 1997

There was no regular monthly meeting held. The CWRA Annual Banquet was held at Michelle's Restaurant. There were 29 people present.

Joe Larson, N9JW, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work in teaching ham radio classes. Congratulations, Joe!

tions, Joe!

Next month's meeting is February 12, 1997 in Room A-107 in the UWSP Science Building, at 7:30 PM. The program is a presentation by Mike Pagel, KA9LAQ, on ham shack ergonomics.

Respectfully submitted:
Mike Eiden, WD9JID
CWRA Secretary



FOR SALE: Icom 275H, 100 watts, 2-meter multi-mode transceiver with PS-55 power supply. Excellent Condition. \$1200. Call Ed at (608) 244-3349.

WANTED: Non-working Heathkit model 1410 keyer or Ten-Tec paddle. Paddles must be good. Jim Cronn, W2G C, (813) 634-9735. cronnjwc@cftnet.com

FOR SALE: Zoom 14.4 kb/s outboard modem. \$40.00 or best offer. Icom IC-2AT 2-meter HT with BP-4 battery case and wall charger. \$50.00/offer. Info: Jim Romelfanger, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. (608) 356-4031. smokesigs@baraboo.com

FOR SALE: AEA model PK-232MBX Pakratt/fax data controller. Excellent! \$250. George Kroner, KE9PL, 1508 South 30th Street, La Crosse, WI 54601. (608) 788-1126.

FOR SALE: Kantronics all mode KAM, with manuals and power supply cables for IBM. Asking \$150.00. Cliff Wilson, WA9WCZ, 2075 Preston Drive, Richland Center WI 53581. (608) 647-4056. wa9wcz@mwt.net

FOR SALE: One(1) RF Parts Co./Diamond Antenna brand Model F-718L omnidirectional base station antenna, cut for 420-430 MHz (Amateur TV frequency range), 11.5 db gain, 50 ohm impedance, rated for 250 watts, 15 ft. in length. Asking \$115.00. Two(2) PC Electronics brand Model TVCX-4 single-channel, crystal-controlled Amateur television downconverters/receivers, both crystallized for 427.25 MHz (can be changed). Requires +11 to +15 Vdc, AC adapter included. One unit outputs to TV channel 3, the other to TV channel 4. Asking \$65.00 each. Will sell above as package or separately. Contact Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405, phone (715) 223-3318, or e-mail muzikman@waun.tdsnet.com

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, Secretary

P. O. Box 401 • Abbotsford, WI 54405-0401

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6th at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on the 147.15 Medford repeater (+600 kHz) or 146.52 MHz simplex.

MEETING AGENDA/PROGRAM

Elections for 1997 club officers, postponed from the January meeting due to a lack of attendance, will be held at the February meeting.

A videotape on some ham radio-related topic will be made available for viewing by the membership following the business meeting.

IMPORTANT: CORRECTION!!

In the January issue of *Badger State Smoke Signals* (BSSS), the cost of an annual subscription to BSSS for current club members was stated as being \$5.00 per year. This figure is INCORRECT. The CORRECT amount is \$6.00 per year. My apologies for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused some members (DE N9GHZ).

IMPORTANT REMINDER!!

Just another reminder that 1997 club dues and annual payments for subscriptions to *Badger State Smoke Signals* (BSSS) are now due and payable. If not paid within the next month or two, your autopatch privileges will be revoked and/or your subscription to BSSS will be cancelled. For details on what and how to pay, see the January, 1997 issue of BSSS under the club's news column, or contact current club treasurer Bernie Jari, KA9WDX, Medford.

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF JANUARY 2, 1997 MEETING

Meeting was called to order by President N9GEN at 7:05 PM. Present were N9GEN, AA9LE, KA9WDX and N9UBQ.

Minutes of the December, 1996 meeting were accepted, with one correction noted. Annual payments by club members for their *Badger State Smoke Signals* subscriptions should be \$6.00 per year, not \$5.00 per year.

Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer KA9WDX. Motion by N9GEN, seconded by AA9LE, to reimburse N9GHZ for recent expenses for postage for various club-related mailings. Motion carried.

The current status of the club's 147.15 repeater coordination with the Wisconsin Assn. of Repeaters was discussed.

The annual Perkinstown, Wis. "P-

Town Tramp" snowshoe races were discussed. The club has again been contacted, this year by Doug Pinkston, to provide ARES radio communications for the annual event, to be held on January 18th. Amateur radio operators from the Clark County area will also be contacted by our club and asked to assist by providing operators.

N9UBQ, Emergency Government Coordinator for Taylor County, showed a new video on severe weather that he had recently acquired.

Severe weather spotter training by the National Weather Service, for spotters in Taylor County, is tentatively set for Thursday, April 3rd at 7:30 PM, pending approval, with an alternate date of Monday, April 7th at 7:30 PM. When the date for training is finalized, that information will be passed along to Amateur Radio operators in the Taylor County area.

It was also mentioned that the National Weather Service office in La Crosse, Wis. is also looking for volunteer weather observers to collect local weather data and report it back to the NWS office at La Crosse.

Providing a regular program or presentation of some sort for each month's club meeting, as a means of drawing more members to the meetings, was discussed. N9UBQ suggested holding Emergency Management Institute courses for club members at the meetings, covering a number of topics, such as hazardous materials disasters, and others. Another idea put forth was a demonstration of the Internet, e-mail and Worldwide Web, with a slant on Amateur Radio applications. Also suggested were video presentations and a packet radio demonstration.

Elections of club officers for 1997 were postponed to the February meeting, due to a lack of attendance at the January meeting.

AA9LE shared some interesting current statistics on club membership that he had compiled, including such information as the current average age of club members, with those in attendance at the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

CLARK/TAYLOR COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) NEWS

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ
ARES Emergency Coordinator

Don't forget to try to check into the weekly ARES net held Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on the Medford repeater (147.75/147.15). If the repeater is down or not functioning properly, alternate frequencies, in order, are 147.15 MHz simplex and 146.52 MHz simplex. You're also encouraged to volunteer for net control duty for the net.

general admission), numbers, and if name and address of the purchaser should be on the ticket.

New Business

ARRL sent the club a survey and it was decided to give to the club president to complete and return.

The club also received an invitation to participate in Circus Heritage days May 16-18. Club members present agreed to participate.

Members decided to postpone plans for a February open house until the next meeting.

Buck night winner was Dave Sparring, KB9CSW, who was present and returned

Continued on page 13



E.C.A.R.C. eau Claire AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Carl Searing, W9NW, Secretary
1129 McKinley Rd. • Eau Claire, WI 54703
<http://www.edp.net/~mceraso/ECARC.html>

MEETING MINUTES January 14, 1997

The meeting began at 1930 with a roll call showing some 33 members and guests present. Bert Spangler, W9ZZI, introduced Larry Glenn of the UWEC Media Development Staff, who spoke on the subject of surge suppression, utilizing overhead transparencies, and excellent handouts. A very interesting presentation.

The business meeting started with secretary and treasurer's reports read and approved. No-Code Technician classes began on January 11th at South Middle School. There are over 20 students, taught by KB9JOE, KE9KW, KA9OMY, WB9RBP, and N9WJY.

It was announced that Gale Sorum, WD9HFT, would provide the program for both the February and the March meet-

ings. Taking about three-quarters of an hour at each session, he will discuss the Basics of Repeaters: How they work, How organized, etc. The April club meeting will once again be held at the Labor Temple at 1900 hours, and will be a three-hour Skywarn Instructional Session.

The 1997 ECARC Hamfest will be on July 12, 1997. WU9R is working on flyers. Distribution of the same was discussed, as was better signage for this year's event.

It was noted that both W9BEW, Glenn Blakeslee, and WD9IJY, Don Rassbach, are in the Clairemont Nursing Facility, and would welcome cards and visitors.

Lunch Committee for February: KE9-KW, N9OHE

Meeting adjourned at 2130 hours.

W9NW, Secretary

The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI

ARRL Affiliated

Providing Communications for American Red Cross and ARES

Mary Urban, N9ZWE, Secretary

c/o RMC • P. O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 53401-0003

MEETING MINUTES January 13, 1997

January's meeting began with a very nice tour of the Wustum Museum. Club members and their families attended. The tour, which started at 7:30 p.m., lasted approximately 45 minutes.

Following the tour, the meeting was called to order by President Bob Madson, KF9ZT, at approximately 8:20 p.m. Those present were:

Rob, KF9ZT, President
Kenny, N9WHR, Vice-President
Mary, N9ZWE, Secretary
Lee, N9NVU, Activities Manager
Alan, N9ZWJ

Michael, KB9JXX
Michael, N9XYP
Alex, N9RGX
Cheryl, W9SP
Jim, W9LXY
Bonnie, WB9ZKX
Gene, WB9ZKY
Harold, KB9LXM
Robin
Larry, WA9JMO
Tony, N9ZWM
Dave, WB9USI
Kathy, N9ZWN
Spence, W9LDH
Bob, W9LWN
Bill, W9OVZ

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SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AMATEUR RADIO BANQUET

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1997

Ensenada's Restaurant: 8300 Washington Ave. Racine, WI 53406
Lower banquet room (3 1/2 miles east of I-94 on HWY 20)

5:30 PM	Registration at the Door
6:00 PM	Cocktails: CASH BAR
6:45 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM	PROGRAM: Award Presentations & Door Prizes
8:45 PM	Music courtesy of Ray Wolfe WB9LST

ENTREES: All prices include tax and tip. The purchase of a dinner automatically enters you for the drawing of a NEW 2 meter HI and many more prizes.

Chicken Parmigiana++
Stuffed Pork Chop 10oz.*

Filet Mignon 8oz.*
Baked Cod Almondine*

* All dinners include a salad, twice baked potato, California vegetables, dinner rolls, and coffee.
++Served over fettuccini noodles, and includes the * selections except the potato.

Dessert courtesy of: O & H Bakery

NOTE: We are looking for individuals and/or company's that would like to donate gift packages, gift certificates or monetary contributions to the Amateur Radio Banquet. Contact Kathy Madson, N9ZWN c/o Racine Megacycle Club PO Box 3, Racine, WI 53401-0003.

Please complete the lower portion of this registration form. Make the check out to QCWA Chapter 162, and mail it with your signed check to: Bob Jensen (W0WLN), 5616 Cambridge Lane, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406-2870. (414) 886-8551. Registration deadline: Friday, February 21, 1997.

Select the quantity of each desired:

_____ Chicken Parmigiana (\$16.00)
_____ Baked Cod Almondine (\$17.00)

_____ Filet Mignon 8oz. (\$18.00)
_____ Stuffed Pork Chop (\$16.00)

Print Your Name & Call: _____
Address, Zip & Phone: _____
Spouse and/or Guest Names: _____
Total amount of MONEY submitted with the REGISTRATION form (\$): \$ _____

Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959

The January 14, 1997 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by club Vice-President Bill Hommel, KA9QFJ.

The minutes for the December meeting were accepted as published in the BSSS.

Jim Decker did not give a treasurer's report as he was busy collecting club dues that were due this meeting.

Old Business

The club had received from SEWFARS a request for two tickets to our swapfest and a table, which brought up a discussion as to whether a ticket came with the purchase of a booth or not. It was thought that payment for a table should include one ticket. Also discussed was colors (one for the vendor, another for

general admission), numbers, and if name and address of the purchaser should be on the ticket.

New Business

ARRL sent the club a survey and it was decided to give to the club president to complete and return.

The club also received an invitation to participate in Circus Heritage days May 16-18. Club members present agreed to participate.

Members decided to postpone plans for a February open house until the next meeting.

Buck night winner was Dave Sparring, KB9CSW, who was present and returned

Continued on page 13

Racine Megacycle Club

Continued from page 12

Arne, KA9ZP
Britt-Marie, N9ZWG
David, KB9MML

Two new members were present, David, KB9MML, and Mike, N9XYP. It was requested that members renew their memberships. Mary, N9ZWE, has renewal forms.

Rob, KF9ZT, stated that work is still in progress on the new radio room at the Red Cross Building. It is hoped that it will be partially operational for the contest this coming weekend.

Larry, WA9JMO, announced that ham classes will be beginning this Saturday, January 19, at the Red Cross Building. Classes will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The second week classes may be cancelled due to the Super Bowl game. The classes will run for two weeks. They're looking for instructors and students. "Now You're Talking" books are available for \$13. Contact Larry if you are interested.

1997 Field Day plans are in progress for June 28 and 29. Please let Rob, KF9ZT, or Lee, N9NVU, know if you are available to help any time on those days.

The minutes from the last *Smoke Signals* were accepted. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Rob, KF9ZT, discussed a publication called *World of Radio*. They're exploring the possibility of having the club provide subscriptions to members who want them. The club would receive \$2 per subscription. Dave, WB9USI, stated that this was done many years ago and, as a result of the tremendous response, the Racine Public Library received a free subscription to date.

Mary, N9ZWE, requested that information or pictures to be published in the *Smoke Signals* be submitted to her by the night of the monthly meeting. Cheryl, WS9P, suggested that the club buy a disposable camera to be available to take pictures of club events.

Mary, N9ZWE, handed out 1997 Racine Hamfest flyers at a hamfest over the weekend. More is going to have to be done to pursue these vendors and make this year's hamfest successful.

Lee, N9NVU, announced that the February meeting will again be held at the Case Corporation. The man who designed the satellite setup will be here and give a more detailed presentation of the system. He also handed out surveys to get ideas of what type of programs should be presented at our meetings.

Cheryl, WS9P, is still signing up amateurs for the November 1997 Radio Cruise. Those who have signed up can start getting their reciprocal licenses. Contact Rob, KF9ZT, or the ARRL for further license information.

Dave, WB9USI, handed out nomination papers for the "Ham of the Year" award. Please return these at the next meeting.

Rob, KF9ZT, and Kathy, N9ZWN, announced the plans for the Club Banquet, to be held on March 8 at Ensenada's. A new 2M HT radio and several gift certificates will be given as door prizes. A meal purchase is necessary to be entered in the drawing, but attendance is not necessary. Forms will be mailed out to all Lakeshore Repeater members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. The Fox Hunt schedule for 1997 is: January 31; February 28; March 28; April 25; May 23; June 20; July 18; August 15; September 12; October 10; November 7; and December 5. Contact Dan, KA9OIL, for further information. □

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary

E616 810th Avenue

Knapp, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings RCRA sponsors and guests.

Our thanks to N8MMC, N9NPE, WB9WKO, N9NOY, and KB9MMR for donating items for the upcoming auction.

N9TOV, Sally at Boyceville, reports that the and family attended the Minnesota Science Museum on the eve of the museum's 90th birthday.

KG9CT, Chuck at Spring Valley, returned from his trip to Poland and remarked that the weather was not good there either.

N9WJY, Rod at Chippewa Falls, has revived the middle school's Amateur Radio station with the call sign of WB9SQX and made contact with K9NY, Bill at Fall Creek. Bill was the originator of the station at the school.

KA9QIJ, Darlene, has referred a potential ham from Elk Mound to our group.

W9QW, Jon at Lake Tainter, is looking to continue his education.

N9ZDD, Jerry at Chippewa Falls, is relocating to Menomonie.

N9PPE, Jeff, and N9LIJ, Jim, attended a snow shoe making course at the Beaver Creek workshop.

N9TTV, Glenn, logged 4000 miles on a trip through the plains states and into Texas.

KB9MMT, Jeff, reports trouble with his web server. There have been over 250

visitors to the RCRA web page that Jeff supports.

N9WJY, Rod, WB9PMF, Tim, and W9AVM, Jim, have been keeping the Thursday evening code practice alive. Code practice is 7:30 p.m. on the repeater.

The March 25th Social Hour will be held at the community room at the residence of KB9NGD, Peter Johnson. Time is 7:30 p.m. at 603 21st Ave., Menomonie.

Please plan on attending the club auction scheduled for Feb. 25, 1997 at the American Legion Post 53 at 634 Water Street Eau Claire. Auction time is 7 p.m. sharp. Doors open at 6 p.m. for you to set up your items.

Equipment should pertain to the electronics hobby. Mark all items with some identification and what you will accept for a minimum bid. W9QAH, Bruce, will auction your items to the highest bidder. Admission is \$3.00 or paid RCRA 1997 support. RCRA will retain 10% of all sales to offset expenses.

The RCRA is not responsible for any loss. Keep track of your stuff. Come to buy, sell, or just have fun. See you at the auction.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC
RCRA Secretary/Treasurer

Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 12

his winnings to the club treasurer to be used for refreshments at this year's Field Day activities. He did this before it was announced that the winnings totaled 7 bucks. He donated it anyway. Thank you, Dave.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday February 12, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. at the Baraboo Civic Center (room 14).

Sincerely,
Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ
Secretary

The following members were present:

Ken Johnson, K9DZG	Mazomanie
Dave Sparring, KB9CSW	Portage
Bill Hommel, KA9QFJ	Baraboo
Thomas Harrison, N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Jim Paul, N9LKY	Baraboo
Leonard Wagner, N9XJG	Baraboo
Peter Sweeney, WD9JIB	Reedsburg
Jim Decker, WB9UQT	Baraboo
Bill Klinkner, N9KXX	Sauk City
Raymond Matlosz, N9MLZ	Reedsburg

You Never Know When

By Richard Regent, K9GDF
5003 South 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221

Did you ever get the impression that there are Amateurs everywhere? It seems that someone I meet is either an Amateur Radio Operator or knows someone who is an Amateur.

While driving north on Milwaukee's high rise bridge at 50 miles per hour, I saw in my rear view mirror a motorcycle getting close. Could this be a Police officer on a cycle? It pulled along side and the cyclist began beeping the horn at me but looking straight ahead. Even with car my windows closed I could hear the cyclist send what sounded like "DE KA9GYZ," in Morse Code. It pays to know the code. I just had time to beep back "toot, toot" and we both went on our happy ways on the freeway. Thanks for making my day a little happier.

One winter evening my wife and I went to a Band Concert at the Oak Creek High School. Searching for a spot to park our car in the crowded lot, we finally pulled in next to another Chevrolet station wagon. In the dark edge of the lot the other wagon looked just like ours. After the enjoyable program, we returned to our car. The wagon next to ours had the license "W9WAQ." Apparently Allen Rothschild of Watertown, must have been at the concert too. We could now see by our headlights that Allen's wagon is silver, ours is gold. A compliment of colors for the Christmas Concert and another coincidence.

Our church recently hired an Assistant Pastor. He is old timer Richard Weeden, W8SW. He enjoys code and computers.

One day I asked Les Peterson, W9YCV, to tell me about his church music and choir program. Before you know it, Les had put me in touch with the Music Director of his church. A few practice sessions and I was the featured musician at two Sunday services. Les and his wife Grace, along with hundreds of others, got to hear me play my clarinet, in their own church!

Of course there are many things to be thankful for, Amateur Radio is one of them. It's comforting to realize that lots of folks on the earth share the same interests. You never know when a stranger, even an Amateur Radio Operator, will do something to cheer you up. Keep alert for the special clues.

(Editor's note: My mother ("Miss Ethel", deceased 1983) played the "America" steam calliope at the Circus World Museum for many years. I taught her "CQ", and she used to blast that once in a while. With 80 pounds of steam pressure, she didn't need a radio; the calliope could often be heard for four miles. It was amazing how often a ham would ask her if she were a radio amateur. Of course, she said, "No, but my son is.") □



SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Chris Jacobs, N9VKC, Secretary
W4065 Dekker Rd., Waldo, WI 53093

At press time, no material for publication had been received from the Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club. □

Little LEOs narrow 2-meter focus to 146-148 MHz

In their effort to secure spectrum space that includes the 2-meter and 70-cm ham bands, the Little LEOs have narrowed their focus on 2 meters to the 146 to 148-MHz segment. The industry also appears to be attempting to reposition itself as a potential emergency communication adjunct to ham radio.

The little LEOs will use low-Earth-orbiting satellites to provide position-location and two-way data-messaging services to potential customers around the world. Customers would use small, inexpensive transceivers to communicate with satellites. According to the FCC, potential uses of this service include emergency location in remote areas, environmental data collection, vehicle tracking, and time-sensitive business and personal data communication.

For Region 1, a draft little LEO frequency allocation table has proposed adding a primary mobile-satellite allocation of 146 to 148 MHz to the existing allocations for fixed and mobile (except aeronautical mobile [R] services). The table was contained in a working paper--Document IWG-2A/86 Rev. 3, entitled "New Allocations for the Mobile-Satellite Services Operating Below 1 GHz" -- submitted by representatives of the Little LEOs industry to Informal Working Group-2A (IWG-2A) January 7.

The 146 to 148-MHz segment is not a ham band in Region 1, but in Regions 2 and 3, a footnote would be added to state: "Additional allocation: the bands 146-148 and 430-440 MHz are also allocated to the mobile-satellite service, limited to non-geostationary satellite systems, for use only during emergency communication situations as a complement to the amateur service in accordance with Resolution No. 640."

The little LEO proposal also calls for a new primary allocation for the mobile-satellite (space-to-Earth) service for 430-440 MHz in Regions 2 and 3 (ham radio is primary in Region 1), and offers this rationale. "The allocation for the mobile-satellite service within the bands allocated to the amateur service is intended to be a complement to that latter service in situations involving emergency communications as provided for the [sic] Resolution No. 640."

As currently drawn, Resolution 640 covers only the 144 to 146-MHz segment of 2 meters and does not apply at all to 70 cm.

In the 440 to 450-MHz band, where the Amateur Service is not listed in the international table of frequency allocations except by footnote (ham radio is secondary in Australia, the US, Jamaica, the Philippines, and Canada), the little LEOs proposed a new worldwide primary mobile-satellite (space-to-Earth) allocation.

Calling their service "inherently global" the little LEO group said the industry needs "frequency allocations that can be used anywhere in the world," for nongeostationary, nonvoice mobile satellite service through the year 2002. "ITU-R studies indicate sharing is possible," the industry said.

"If the demand for Little LEO spectrum cannot be satisfied by allocations that could

Continued on page 15



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Bob Gedemer, KA9JAC

609 Wilson Street • Neenah, WI 54956

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 720 N. Broadway (Upper West) • Green Bay, WI 54303

WAPR News - February, 1997

Hello to all, and hope you have been able to thaw out somewhat after a cold and snowy January. As of this writing, some of us are due for some kind of a late January thaw. Of course we are all looking at how February will treat us.

One victim of the messy weather in January has been the antenna at the node stack in Wittenburg. By now the generous coating of ice has been melted off. This caused a poor path between Weston and the Black Creek to Fox Cities link on the backbone. Things are slowly getting back to normal now, and we are hoping that it does stay this way.

We all know that ice and other poor weather conditions can wreak havoc on antennas, and the network system of packet radio nodes is no exception. We all might remember this the next time that you have trouble connecting to a distant node. Before you call your local node operator on the phone to tell him that his node "doesn't work", consider what might be happening to the antennas as well as other possible problems (power outages, etc.).

But this is a good time to remember what to think about when you do have problems with a network node or BBS that are not weather-related. When talking to your friendly neighborhood Node or BBS operator, try and explain any problems you might be experiencing in a clear and concise manner. Try and remember to use the following checklist when you are both trying to resolve a problem:

- 1) The make and model of the radio and TNC you are using. What type of software are you using, and what version number?
- 2) Is the problem more likely to happen under a particular set of circumstances? For example, does it happen at night or day, when the frequency is busy, or traffic is light?
- 3) Try and capture your monitor screen to a file, if your software permits it, when the problem is occurring. This can tell a person a lot about what is happening.
- 4) Try and have a friend watch what is happening, and have him try to save his monitor screen to a file. Again, more information is helpful.
- 5) Notice if the problem is happening to other people. After all, this is a puzzle and the more information you have, the easier it is to solve the puzzle.
- 6) Try and be patient. This is complex stuff, and sometimes the answer is not easy to come by.

Now, on to another topic. I have been hearing reports recently about isolated packet communities "adopting" a LAN frequency because they think it is not in use. Perhaps they know it is occupied, but feel that using such a frequency will not bother anyone. While occasionally this may not present a problem, often it does. That is why WAPR has a state frequency coordinator. What may seem to be no problem to one person may cause untold problems to others. One may not think about the subtleties of adjacent channel interference, propagation enhancement, and general band usage when randomly picking a frequency.

Please don't use a frequency you think is inactive. Please consult the Frequency Coordinator if your local packet group feels the need for an additional LAN frequency. Our nationally recognized WAPR frequency coordinator is Steve Mc Donough, KE9LZ. His Packet Mail address is: KE9LZ@KB9ALN.#GRB.WI.USA.NA. He can also be reached via the internet at: ke9lz@netnet.net. If all else fails, there is always the U.S. Postal service. His street address is: 445 S. St. Bernard Drive, De Pere, WI. 54115.

In order to effectively develop the Wisconsin network we all have to work together and coordinate our efforts in a spirit of cooperation. If we don't, we will not be able to enjoy this mode nearly as much as we could. Remember what the folks on the other end might be experiencing due to LAN interference, and how frustrating it might be for them.

By now you may have heard of other packet radio news - the change in the ARRL Repeater Directory. In the past, packet radio information was listed in a separate section of the directory. The ARRL has

decided to devote the repeater directory to voice repeater listings, and the Tuscon Amateur Packet Radio group (TAPR) has agreed to have an on-line packet guide with the same functionality as the printed one. It will appear on their World-Wide Web page. This allows them to update the guide frequently. The web page address is: <http://www.tapr.org/directory>

For those of you who like cruising the World-Wide Web, this is a good time to remind you of the WAPR Web page. Not only will this give you valuable information about WAPR and the Wisconsin Network, it also has the complete "Using the Wisconsin Network" series on it. You can also link from it to the TAPR home page. This allows you to look at the new TAPR digital directory in a convenient way. The address is: <http://www.netnet.net/~ke9lz/>

That's all for now. As always, you can mail me via packet, KB9ALN@KB9ALN.#GRB.WI.USA.NA. There is always the US Postal Service, the address is at the top of the page.

Until next month, 73 from Andy.

Using the Wisconsin Network - Part 24 by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

In the last installment of the series, we talked about how our packet radio network has been evolving, and talked about the need to look toward the future. Many of us have tasted the advanced nature of the internet, and have wondered if we could do some of what we see there in Amateur Packet Radio. This time, we will look at the elements of a network and why we might consider not only other methods of networking, but of operating as well.

But in order to do that, we have to analyze the whole networking process and look at what we do with it. We all know that a network allows us connectivity with other stations. To aid our analysis, consider what happens when you want to leave a message to a friend of yours who lives some distance away from you. If you are in a typical packet radio situation, you may have 2 or 3 ways to do this:

- 1) You can connect to your local BBS and type in a message (if you both have access to a BBS). While other stations do the work, you have to remember his BBS address, you have no time to correct spelling errors and word your message properly.
- 2) You can connect up to his mailbox and leave a message there. Of course, you would have to navigate through a series of nodes to get to his mailbox. And if his station is not active, you have wasted your time. If you have a shaky path to any node in the circuit, you may suffer sudden disconnection and your message is lost in the ether. You will have to try another time. Again, you have no editing capabilities.
- 3) You could also leave a message in your mailbox, or another friend's mailbox. Of course, your mail recipient must remember to check for the mail (just like the BBS example above).

If you choose to leave a message in your friend's mailbox, you also have to remember node aliases, the best route to take, and might have to wait for the right time of day to make a connection. To sum it up, the process looks like this:

- 1) Connect to your local LAN node.
- 2) Gain access to the network.
- 3) Know the alias of his LAN node.
- 4) Deal with any nodes on the backbone making shaky connections.
- 5) Segment your connection circuit if there are any shaky paths.
- 6) Connect to his LAN node.
- 7) Connect to his mailbox and leave a message.

This is a heck of a lot of thought and human intervention required for a system that is run by computers! In contrast, consider what happens if you E-Mail one of your friends on the Internet:

- 1) You dial-in to an Internet service provider, and leave a message.
- 2) Your friend dials into his internet service provider and picks up his message.

It can be made even simpler. Some folks have their computers set up to automatically connect up

to the service provider to send and collect E-Mail. Wouldn't it be nice to do that on Amateur Packet Radio?

Well, it is feasible, and many people do it right now with packet radio E-Mail. The secret is to have an advanced mail system and an open, transparent network at your disposal, as the Internet is. What do we mean by an open, transparent network? Consider all of the stuff that goes on behind-the-scenes when making any kind of connection on the Internet, for any purpose.

An excellent example of this is what happens when a person is "Web Surfing". When a person connects up to a "Web Site", he or she has no knowledge of how the data gets to or from this site. All they have to know is "///www.bogus.com", an internet address. This is a transparent connection, computers that do the routing and relay of the data are not seen by the user. In a global computer network, there is likely to be a significant amount of network activity just to allow someone to connect up to this web site. This network is also open to a number of different protocols. The protocol used in this case is http, used for transferring the hypertext present in most web pages.

Contrast this with what you had to go through to get a message to your friend. There is a lot to know, and a lot to do. You have to know details about your friend's station and the network that the average Internet station doesn't ever worry about. So in order to make our mail system more "automatic", we need the following:

- 1) A way to send mail with maximum convenience, preferably without ever "leaving our own station".
- 2) A mail system that knows who the recipient of the mail is.
- 3) Mail systems that know how to work with a network.
- 4) An open network - capable of handling a protocol used by a "smart" mail system that works with the network.
- 5) Network transparency - packets of any kind are routed to their destination without human intervention.
- 6) Some method of receiving the mail and possibly storing it.
- 7) Ability to collect the mail in a convenient fashion.

Amateur Packet Radio has tried to accomplish this in a variety of ways. It has always been the vision of packeteers to have "door-to-door" mail delivery. While we will explore ways to get closer to this with our existing situation, we will not see mail fully automated with what we are using now. Although we would like to think of our current network node system as "auto-routing", it really is not always very efficient when we ask it to do this. In addition, some of our network nodes will not pass data that is sent using protocols other than Net/Rom and AX.25 (remember our discussion of how some protocols are not well suited for some tasks, but perfectly to others). I have used mail as an example of one process that might be able to use a different protocol. There are other packet radio functions that may well be able to use protocols different than what we are using now.

When discussing a digital radio network, we can further break a network system down to a few basic functions we will discuss in the next installment. These can be described as:

- 1) A originator of data.
- 2) A Network Interface Host Computer (comparable to a network node we now use, but more functional and automatic).
- 3) A transparent Auto-Routing network requiring no user knowledge or intervention.
- 4) Another Network Interface Host Computer at the destination.
- 5) A receiver of data.

Actually, origination and reception of data can be combined into the function of Network Interface Host Computers, further eliminating two of these functions. Next time we will dissect the functions of each of these parts of our radio network. Until then, 73 from Andy.

License plates: Sesquicentennial or amateur? You can't have it both ways.

(Editor's note: In 1998, Wisconsin will observe its 150th year as a state. A beautiful license plate has been made available to mark the occasion. But, as Paul Nelles tells us in this story, the Sesquicentennial plates are not treated the same way as Amateur Radio (AMA) plates. This story should have been printed sooner. The delay wasn't Paul's, it was ours. We apologize for the delay.)

The public got its first glimpse at the new Sesquicentennial license plate Wednesday (10/9) as the Governor unveiled the scenic design in ceremonies in Green Bay. The colorful plate, which marks the 150th anniversary of statehood, features grasses in the foreground, water, a landscape of trees and buildings, and an eagle flying over the sun. It was created by Richard Yazzie, a WisDOT graphic artist and a Native American of the Navajo Nation. The grasses represent agricultural plants, from the wild rice cultivated by Native Americans to the grains grown by modern farmers. The landscape shows the development of the state. The water represents the rivers as the first highways in the state, used first by Native Americans and later by fur traders and lumbermen. The eagle is both a spiritual symbol to the Native Americans and also indicates the state's concern for the preservation of wildlife.

The sun brings warmth and life to all living things. The limited edition plates, which cost only \$15 once and can be renewed indefinitely, will only be available from Jan. 15, 1997 through 1998. Applications, which will be mailed with renewal notices, will also be available at DMV service centers, car dealers, and on the WisDOT web site.

I asked DOT's Lois Gartland: "What is the arrangement if I want Amateur Radio plates in the sesquicentennial version? \$15 plus the regular one time amateur fee or \$15 plus annual vanity fee? I will forward your answer to the *Badger State Smoke Signals*, a statewide Amateur Radio Publication."

She replied: "You cannot have both AMA and Sesquicentennial plates. The only way would be to give up your AMA plates and order your call sign as a personalized. It would be \$55.00 the first year and \$55.00 each year after that. Also, you could have only one plate with the call sign, not multiples like the AMA. This applies to all other special plates as well, such as the Endangered Species." (Editor's note: If you are an amateur, you are permitted to have the very same plate on all your qualifying vehicles [cars, passenger vans, light trucks and possibly a few others]. For example, if you own fourteen Cadillacs, four Porsches, and a 1918 Stanley Steamer, as I do, you can have your call on every plate on all nineteen cars. I'd get a Lamborghini, but that sounds like pizza cheese. - K9ZZ.)

Thanks to Paul Nelles, K9DB

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



On the first Saturday of December, last year, Bob Burgermeister, WB9IJY, sat for, and successfully past the Advance test and the 20-wpm requirements for the next level Ham license. On Sunday, the 12th of January of this year, Bob knocked off the written Extra exam. Congratulations, Robert! Anxious to ply the skills his new license said he was capable of, Bob rushed home, with some junk. I mean some gem of a deal he got at the swapfest; grabbed his soldering gun and proceeded to burn his thumb. At the Chapter's monthly meeting on Monday evening the 20th of January, I glanced over the shoulder of our newly licensed extra class as he intensely studied an article in a book that Bill Komistra, W9OVZ, brought to the meeting. Bill had sent for several publications on Amateur Radio hints, and wanted to share his find with the rest of the group. Oh, the title of the article that WB9IJY was so engrossed in was "The proper procedures for soldering a PL-259 connector".

We would also like to welcome to our family, Donald Buska, N9OO, and his wife Bonnie, KB9NOE. Nice to have you both in the club. The gang will be looking for the two of you to join us at our Valentine Bash on Sunday the 16th of February, 1 p.m. at the Fireside Restaurant, 2801 30th Avenue in Kenosha. I believe the Chapter will be presenting a small token of appreciation to the ladies. I did not make note of what was suggested, and folks, if I don't write it down I don't remember. Well, not always!

Al Algiers, W9HR, started out the new year on a very bright note. While attending the monthly Kenosha Ham Breakfast on Sunday the 5th, his name was drawn as the winner of \$100. The policy of the breakfast club states that if the

"kitty" contains over a certain amount of money, the Hams in attendance are eligible for a \$25 drawing independent of main drawing. Yes, you guessed it, in addition to the \$100, Al walked away with the \$25 prize. Sometimes it does pay to have your breakfast in a restaurant. That away, Al!

QCWA Chapter 162 will again host its own Field Day Site in 1997. We will concentrate on QRP, CW, some phone work and lots of fun. Details will be published as decisions are made.

Ham classes for the codeless Tech license have begun with an introductory class on the 19th of January. On Super Bowl Sunday, the class and staff will be glued to their TV sets -- no class. On Sunday the 2nd of February at 6:30pm in the Racine Red Cross building, we will guide 11 individuals toward that coveted license. If anyone is interested in or knows of others in the Racine/Kenosha area that might like to study for their Ham Ticket. Please get in touch with me: Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO at (414) 639-7327. We will be using the AARL's "Now You're Talking" book. I still have several copies of this text.

Our March meeting will be on Monday the 17th, St. Patrick's Day at 7:30 p.m. We are trying to arrange for a trip to the Air Museum at Racine's Airport. When details are finalized, we shall inform all.

I have come to the end of my page of notes.

I wish each and everyone a very happy Ground Hog's Day. And remember, if the Ground Hog sees his shadow, six more weeks of winter; if he does not see it, only 42 more days of winter!!

73, Larry, WA9JMO



Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW
Secretary
465 Elder Lane
Allenton, WI 53002-9799



Club Repeater: 146.73 MHz

<http://www.nconnect.net/~WCARC>

The Washington County Amateur Radio Club was not able to hold its January meeting due to adverse weather. The photos below were taken by Tom Waldschmidt, N9LLW, at the club's annual banquet, held this year on January 11 at Heidel's Restaurant near Jackson, Wisconsin.



Brian Skrentny, N9LOO, right, receives an award from Washington County ARC President Walt Gossfeld, N9LLS, at the club's annual dinner. The award was in recognition of Brian's establishing and maintaining the club's Web page.



Kevin McCarthy, N9LTH (left), receives the club's Ham of the Year award from club president Walt Gossfeld, N9LLS. The award was given for his report of a serious accident which he witnessed, and his heroic efforts to aid the victims.



Club members pose for this group photo after enjoying a delicious meal at the banquet at Heidel's.

Little LEOs set sights on 146-148 Mhz

Continued from page 13

be used on a worldwide basis, one solution is to assign different frequencies for use in the various regions of the world from within the allocations to the mobile satellite service," the working paper's preamble said.

Little LEO firms CTA, E-Sat, Final Analysis, GE Starsys, and LEO One submitted the third revision of the lengthy paper -- which drew criticism from the ARRL as well as from military and land-mobile interests and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration--at the January 7 session. The ARRL continued its objection to the inclusion of amateur bands and to the misapplication of Resolution 640. For now, Document IWG-2A/86 Rev. 3 is tabled, but it's expected to come up again at future meetings. IWG-2A meets on January 21 and February 4.

Overall, the little LEOs proposed the following bands for additional allocation to nongeostationary data-only mobile satellite service systems: 138-144, 146-148, 149.9-150.05, 150.05-156.7625, 380-387, 387-390, 390-399.9, 399.9-400.05, 400.15-401, 430-440, 440-450, 470-608 and 614-806 MHz. The paper notes there are proposals concerning 401-406 and 450-470 MHz and for feeder links at 1390-1400 and 1427-1432 MHz in other papers, and that "additional allocation proposals are under construction for the 174-230 MHz band."

For additional information on the little LEOs situation, read the editorial "It Seems to Us..." in by ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, in February 1997 QST.

The ARRL Letter, 1/17/97

FIFTY OPERATORS are needed for communications for the Madison Marathon on May 25. Starting times for operators vary somewhat. Please contact Tom Fleming, N9SZF, at (608) 246-0282. E-mail: n9szf@skywarn.cs.wis.edu



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HAMFEST INFO:
Chad Pennings, N9PRC
318 E. Brewster St.
Appleton, WI 54911
(414) 759-0799

EXAM INFO:
Larry Siebers, KD9LA
(414) 759-1167

Lakeshore Hamfest
and Computer Swapfest
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Intersection of Hwys. 42-151 and I-43 on Cty. Hwy. R
Saturday, May 10, 1997
For more information, call:
Glenn, AA9MT: 414-684-7096
Red, N9GHE: 414-684-9097
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Carol Ceraso • (715) 723-9205 Liz Searing • (715) 834-1303
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<http://www.edp.net/~mceraso/hamfest.html>

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W58 N985 Essex Drive, Cedarburg, WI 53012-1439

Adams County Amateur Radio Club
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Talkin on 145.29 Adams Repeater
Adams County Amateur Radio Club
Friendship, WI 53934
P. O. Box 232 (608) 564-7887
Packet: N9TD-1 on 145.03

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.
AUCTION
February 25, 1997 • 7:00 p.m.
American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street
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CONTACT:
Steve Hart, KA9OMC 715-665-2374
B616 810th Ave. Knapp, WI 54749

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